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New York

President:	Mr. Chowdhury	(Bangladesh)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Cappagli
	Canada	Mr. Vámos-Goldman
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	France	Mr. Teixeira da Silva
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ag Oumar
	Namibia	Mrs. Ashipala-Musavyi
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Tunisia	Mr. Ben Mustapha
	Ukraine	Mr. Yel'chenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Mr. Cunningham

Agenda

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (S/2000/215)

00-35439 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 12 noon.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (S/2000/215)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Turkey, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Sacirbey (Bosnia and Herzegovina) took a seat at the Council table; Mr. Kastrup (Germany), Mr. Vento (Italy), Mr. Monteiro (Portugal) and Mr. Göktürk (Turkey) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Annabi to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, document S/2000/215.

At this meeting, the Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. I give him the floor.

Mr. Annabi: The report of the Secretary-General dated 14 March which is before the Council is the third quarterly progress report on the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) in its present mandate period, which will expire next June. The report describes how and in what areas UNMIBH has progressed in the implementation of its mandate and also describes those areas in which it is encountering resistance and obstruction to the implementation of its mandate.

As described in the report, UNMIBH continues to focus on five main priority areas within its overall mandate of monitoring and restructuring the law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These five areas are the following: first, minority recruitment in an effort to change the mono-ethnic character of the police and make it increasingly representative of the community it is serving; secondly, the establishment of the State Border Service, so as to strengthen the common institutions of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina in relation to the two entities (the Federation and the Republika Srpska); thirdly, the implementation of the Brčko arbitration award, which will set an important example and serve as a model for multi-ethnic cooperation; fourthly, the provision of assistance in judicial reform and the review of judicial appointments; and fifthly, the setting up of a multi-ethnic Bosnian police contingent for service in a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

Perhaps the most important development in the last three months, which are covered by this report, was the official inauguration of the multi-ethnic Brčko district. As indicated in the report, UNMIBH has fulfilled its part in the international community's efforts in Brčko by downsizing the former separate police forces and integrating them into one multi-ethnic police force composed of 45 per cent Serbs, 37 per cent Bosnians, 16 per cent Croats and 2 per cent others. On 13 March, after the Secretary-General's report was finalized, the International Police Task Force (IPTF) Commissioner handed out UNMIBH identity badges to all authorized police officers in Brčko. It should be noted, however, that important practical aspects of the administration of the Brčko District still need to be resolved, including the issue of police legislation. At the present time, the district police works on the basis of separate legal systems

governing the areas north and south of the inter-entity boundary line.

Changing the mono-ethnic character of the law enforcement agencies is a process that is progressing slowly, mainly through the introduction of minority police officers trained in the two police academies established in an UNMIBH-led effort two years ago, in 1998. It is, however, clear that the training and recruitment of relatively small numbers of entry-level cadets is not sufficient to significantly change the ethnic composition of the local police forces. UNMIBH is therefore encouraging former police officers among the refugee community to return to Bosnia and Herzegovina, recruiting displaced former police officers and arranging for the exchange of serving police officers between the Republika Srpska and the Federation. These efforts are difficult to pursue, since they encounter all the obstacles that frequently meet returns by refugees and displaced persons in Bosnia and elsewhere.

In the two cantons of the Federation — Canton 6 (Central Bosnia) and Canton 7 (Herzegovina-Neretva) — where there are relatively equal numbers of Bosniac and Croat police officers, their integration into a truly joint police force, rather than two parallel forces, has been hampered by obstruction and resistance. This is particularly evident in Mostar. As detailed in the Secretary-General's report, the authorities in the Croat-controlled western part of Mostar consistently refuse even to allow Bosniac police officers to work from the same building as their Croat colleagues. During the past week, some small progress was achieved when, accompanied by officers of the International Police Task Force (IPTF), Bosniac policemen were allowed to enter the building for the inspection of office space and for training purposes. Even this minimal progress, however, required an enormous amount of pressure not only from UNMIBH, but also from the High Representative and the Stabilization Force (SFOR).

As the Secretary-General indicates in his report, UNMIBH will need the support of the Security Council and member States with influence on the Bosnian Croat and Bosnian Serb authorities to overcome resistance to minority recruitment and integration of the police.

Turning to the State Border Service, there have been some positive developments in that regard after the issuance of the Secretary-General's report. The Joint Presidency has approved an organizational structure which is transparent and provides accountability of the Border Service through the Council of Ministers to the Presidency. This fulfils the minimum requirements set out by UNMIBH and the project is thus back on track, although with considerable delay, caused mainly by obstruction in Parliament.

Regarding the ongoing UNMIBH activities in monitoring and training the local police and in investigating human rights abuses, there is little to add to the Secretary-General's report. UNMIBH continues its practice of focused monitoring through the co-location of IPTF officers in the local police stations and is shifting its training activities increasingly towards specialized training and the training of trainers. The basic training activities of UNMIBH have practically been completed.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the first contingent of Bosnia and Herzegovina police officers to serve in a United Nations peacekeeping operation are expected to be deployed to East Timor to serve with the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) next month.

Overall, the last three months can be summarized by saying that, while progress has been achieved and while UNMIBH has continued to make progress, that progress has been slow. It is often based more on the efforts made by UNMIBH to fulfil its mandate and on action by the international community than on action taken by the local authorities. In fact, significant resistance by entrenched radical nationalist and backward-looking elements continues to be encountered at every stage.

This shows that, more than four years after its conclusion, the implementation of the Dayton Agreement still remains a challenge and requires the continued strong commitment and engagement of the international community.

The President: I now open the floor for statements by the members of the Council.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom): I thank Mr. Annabi for his updating report.

The United Kingdom very much welcomes the Secretary-General's report. We support its judgements and we warmly commend the work which the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) is doing on the ground there.

We feel that significant progress is being made at last in the areas of judicial reform and integration of the local police forces. An independent judiciary and

effective police enforcement are essential to our wider objective of Bosnian ownership of reform. I am glad, too, that Mr. Annabi has reported to us progress, again, in establishing a State Border Service. The advances made in supporting a free and fair society in Bosnia and Herzegovina are important for the stability of the Balkan region has a whole. In this context, we are looking forward to seeing the report from Special Representative Carl Bildt on this subject when he comes to New York next month.

I want to make two brief specific points. My first is on the Judicial System Assessment Programme (JSAP), which the report refers to in describing the termination by the end of this year of that Programme. This is a valuable Programme, in the United Kingdom's view, the findings of which will be fundamental to the badly needed reform of the judicial system in Bosnia. The reports which JSAP is now issuing need to be implemented. We understand that the United Nations is not envisaging any extension of JSAP's activity in this area after its mandate expires and I would encourage the Secretariat to consider how implementation of this programme is going to be best pursued. If this means handing the implementation on to another organization, then we will need to consider what preparations are necessary to ensure continuity. I should welcome Mr. Annabi's comments on that.

My second point is on an exit strategy for UNMIBH. The Secretary-General's report does not give us a sense of the overall plan for the Mission's future activity. While JSAP is a specific example of a programme that is completing its objectives and winding up its activities, there is no similar trajectory for the bulk of UNMIBH's activity and we would be very pleased to see a more focused assessment of achievements to date and a game plan for future action. That does not detract from our admiration of what UNMIBH is doing, but I think it is sensible to look forward in that sense.

Mr. Minton (United States of America): I, too, want to thank Assistant Secretary-General Annabi for his briefing today and welcome those who have been invited to speak here. All of us have been heavily involved in the international effort in Bosnia.

We welcome Special Representative Klein's determined efforts to carry out the Council mandate in resolution 1247 (1999). Those efforts appear to be achieving results. There clearly has been progress, as the Secretary-General has noted in his report, in several critical areas, such as police restructuring, review of the judicial system and the establishment of the Brčko unified police force.

Like Ambassador Greenstock, I think that the work of the Judicial System Assessment Programme (JSAP) merits special mention. This programme has made an invaluable contribution in the area of judicial monitoring. Once the final reports are completed later this year, we understand that the Programme will end, as was agreed initially, but we also agree on the need to see that this progress is continued and that its recommendations are implemented. To ensure that JSAP's reports are acted upon, my Government has been working with officials of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other organizations and with the donor community to create a new judicial reform programme that we hope will have sufficient resources and the mandate it needs from the Peace Implementation Conference.

I want also to recall that last November the Bosnian Joint Presidency appeared before us in a historic meeting and announced a series of commitments known as the New York Declaration. Here again, we can welcome recent reports of progress made in implementing their commitments and can acknowledge their efforts, for instance, in establishing a secretariat for the Joint Presidency, organizing a multi-ethnic Bosnian police contingent for deployment to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), and seeking additional funding for the Council of Ministers.

This is all to the good, but unfortunately it is only half the story. There is still powerful resistance in Bosnia to making the reforms that are called for in the New York Declaration. For instance, while there is a law establishing the State Border Service, it had to be imposed by the Office of the High Representative. While there has been movement on a single passport, progress has been overshadowed by unhelpful public statements and obstacles which are likely to lead to more delays.

There is no doubt that we will need to continue to insist that Bosnia's leaders accept their responsibilities and make the difficult choices. This is not at all to reject the concept of ownership espoused by the High Representative, Mr. Petritsch; on the contrary, we need to be realistic and determined in its application.

Progress cannot disguise that there are many in Bosnia and elsewhere in the region who do not support a

unified multi-ethnic Bosnia. There are extreme nationalists who have not given up their efforts to undermine Dayton and what it stands for; there are criminals who seek to preserve and protect illicit profits. We should not be surprised by the resistance in western Mostar to integration of the Ministry of the Interior and police force there, which the Secretary-General notes in his report. And even as the new democratic Government in Croatia has taken steps to normalize and make transparent its assistance to Bosnian Croats, extreme nationalists in Mostar have only resisted reform even more fiercely. And we continue to see other examples of extremism, including threats to the upcoming municipal elections by radical Serbs in the Republika Srpska.

Such continued obstruction by extremists will require a firm and forceful response by the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), the Office of the High Representative and ultimately by the Security Council. The solution, however, is not to turn to inflammatory rhetoric, as some leaders have done recently. Ownership does not mean departing or heading for the exit; it means intensifying our support for those in Bosnia — and there are, I am glad to say, more every day — who have shown the courage, strength and commitment to ensure that the hopes of Dayton will be realized.

We applaud the efforts in Bosnia of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and of those Bosnian officials who are working to fulfil Dayton's promise. They are committed to establishing the institutions of central government in Bosnia, to returning refugees to urban areas, and to carrying out other critical tasks that will help provide Bosnia with a secure future. We pledge our ongoing support for their difficult but vital work.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to Mr. Annabi for his statement. Although the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina gives no grounds for any particularly optimistic forecasts, nor should it produce a pessimistic mood. Forward movement, while slow, continues. The main thing is to make the process of a Bosnian settlement irreversible and sustainable; to seek the consolidation of multi-ethnic statehood for Bosnia and Herzegovina through the building of democratic foundations and the observance of the rights of all the peoples of that country; and to encourage the Bosnians themselves to shoulder primary responsibility for the future of their State.

In our view, it is extremely important that all the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina recognize the need for scrupulous adherence to the Dayton Agreement as the basis for building a stable democratic society. Clear evidence of such recognition was the signing of the New York Declaration last November by the members of the Joint Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the thrust of the Declaration is consistent implementation of the basic Dayton document without arbitrary adjustments.

The implementation of the Dayton approach is the key condition for realizing efforts to find a long-term effective settlement in Bosnia. We are therefore concerned that of late we have increasingly been hearing statements by some Bosnian politicians who represent various communities of that country, offering proposals for "correcting" or "polishing" the Dayton peace plan. We view that approach as counter-productive.

Mr. Annabi's statement and the report of the Secretary-General (S/2000/215) rightly took note of some fundamental aspects of the process of developing Bosnian statehood: strengthening democratic institutions and law and order; the creation of a functioning independent judicial system; the reorganization of the Bosnian police on a genuinely multi-ethnic basis; the establishment of a unified Border Service; the speedy adoption of an election law; the return of refugees and internally displaced persons; guarantees of the rights of all communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina; market reforms; and fighting corruption and crime.

We think that pending problems need to be resolved as soon as possible, regarding achieving a proper level of cooperation between the two entities — not just in the Bosnian State organs, but also in terms of relations between the entities and leading international structures in Bosnia, particularly the Office of the High Representative, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) as a whole.

Here we cannot fail to note our concern at the situation in Brčko and Mostar. It is important to deal with the resurgence of political extremism in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We stress anew that the activities of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia should be depoliticized and that detention of those indicted on the basis of Tribunal warrants should not take place without the consent of the States in whose territory they are located. We are categorically against the use of force to hunt down indictees.

We cannot fail to be concerned at demonstrations of Bosniac extremism, in particular recent statements by Mr. Izetbegović describing representatives of the Serb and Croatian peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina not merely as political opponents but as outright enemies of the Bosniacs. Such statements only confirm our fears; they whip up inter-ethnic hatreds and undermine the basis of the Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Unless we control such forces decisively, these attacks on Dayton will lead to further exacerbation of the situation: tension will inevitably spill over the borders and will result in a deteriorating situation in Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia.

Any attempt to impose solutions that are not acceptable to the representatives of even one of the three peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina could lead to an outburst of discontent at the centrifugal tendencies that are on the increase in Bosnia and to greater tension throughout the country's territory. We are convinced that Dayton's potential is far from exhausted, and that a review of Dayton now would cause more problems than it would resolve. Thus, we do not consider it to be a good idea even to talk about the possibility of revising the Peace Agreement.

For its part, Russia, as one of the leading participants in the Bosnian settlement, will continue to make an active, practical contribution to the peace process on the basis of complete, scrupulous implementation of the Dayton and Paris agreements. Moreover, that should be the clear focus of the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo as well.

It is my understanding that before this meeting was called to order there was discussion of the President making a statement to the press following the adjournment of the meeting. Frankly, my delegation is not clear about the outcome of that discussion. We consider this to be too important a topic; I think that any statement must be agreed upon by all members of the Security Council.

Mr. Vámos-Goldman (Canada): I thank Mr. Annabi for his briefing.

The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) continues to make a significant contribution to stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and will remain a critical component in the international effort to restore peace and stability to the entire Balkan region. The International Police Task Force (IPTF), in particular, has made an important contribution to police reform and to the return of the rule of law.

We are nevertheless concerned that UNMIBH has faced obstruction in a number of crucial areas. As Mr. Annabi noted, there are continued problems with the establishment of the State Border Service, following the imposition of the State Border Service Law by the High Representative. In addition, the obstruction by Croat authorities in Mostar, cited in the Secretary-General's report, causes us serious concern.

The return of refugees and displaced persons to their pre-war homes is another key priority. We encourage Bosnian authorities to implement fully measures likely to foster returns, such as the property law, and to cease obstructing legal evictions. Progress on this front is critical in measuring the real commitment of Bosnia's authorities to a lasting peace within the Dayton framework.

The flawed judicial system in Bosnia is a significant obstacle to the development of a modern democratic State. We note that the parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina are considering legislation that will provide for a review of the qualifications, performance and appointments of some 800 prosecutors and judges. We also commend the initiatives undertaken within the framework of the judicial system assessment programme, and we agree with Ambassador Greenstock on its importance.

We are encouraged that progress is being made in changing the composition of police forces, although we note and are disappointed with ongoing shortcomings in the Republika Srpska. In addition, the progress made in screening for the Law Enforcement Personnel Registry and the establishment of the inter-entity Ministerial Consultative Meeting on Police Matters are encouraging developments which bode well for the implementation of the Dayton Agreement as a whole.

Finally, we also support UNMIBH's cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund in demining programmes, another crucial initiative to ensure that the return of refugees and internally displaced persons takes place in a secure environment. The increase in joint activities between UNMIBH, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other actors in the field is particularly positive, as is UNMIBH's work to develop an updated human rights training curriculum for the IPTF.

Mr. Hasmy (Malaysia): Let me at the outset salute the format of today's meeting of the Council, which provides for an expanded exchange of views, not only between members of the Council and the Secretariat, but also with Member States that are directly affected or have a special interest in this important issue. This format will certainly enhance the process of consultations between Council members and the larger membership of the Organization, and thus clearly enrich the decision-making process of this Council.

We wish to thank the Secretary-General for his latest report on the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) and Assistant Secretary-General Annabi for introducing it and for his update on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We also appreciate the report that has been submitted by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina in relation to the implementation of the New York Declaration, which the Presidency adopted last November.

We commend UNMIBH and Special Representative Jacques Klein for their continued efforts in connection with the restructuring and reform of the local police forces and the judiciary in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We note that some of the measures that UNMIBH has implemented through the targeted and more inclusive concept of operations have begun to bear fruit, and that the Mission has made additional progress in many core mandate areas.

We are, however, concerned by the continued obstruction and delay in the efforts aimed at full integration of multi-ethnic police in certain cantons, in particular canton 7 — Mostar. We are also concerned to see the speedy establishment of the State Border Service, an issue that was highlighted by Mr. Annabi and is discussed in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Secretary-General's report. Both Mr. Annabi and the report underscore the importance of the Border Service to Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as of the establishment and integration of the multi-ethnic police force, which must continue to be seriously pursued in both entities, in particular in the Republika Srpska. In this context, we note in particular the Secretary-General's observation that the Republika Srpska has missed key benchmarks for minority recruitment. Any impediments to further progress in these areas are certainly not acceptable.

We continue to express our strong objection to political obstructionism and interference in the implementation of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Obstructionists and extremist political groups should not be allowed to impede progress. In this regard, we are gratified to note that the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been most forthcoming in supporting the implementation of the various measures outlined in the New York Declaration.

Needless to say, the cooperation and constructive role of local leaders is of paramount importance. Without this contribution, the international community's efforts will not be successful. We therefore urge other political leaders, at every level, to demonstrate commitment and determination similar to those already shown by the Bosnian Presidency in order to carry the process forward towards the establishment of a democratic, multi-ethnic Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is the ultimate goal of the international community's active involvement in the country.

On the return of refugees and displaced persons, we note that, despite the concerted efforts by the international community, the progress has been very slow and that the implementation of annex 7 of the Dayton Peace Accords is far behind schedule. The High Representative informed the Council last November that if the current slow tempo of return continued, the return process would take about 22 years in the Federation and 40 years in the Republika Srpska. At the present rate, therefore, the return process will in practical terms never be completed, which of course would be a triumph for the evil of ethnic cleansing. This should be prevented at all costs.

The refugee problem is of course at the heart of the existing insecure situation, which is due to the absence of law and order, as well as to the existence of political and administrative obstructions. This underscores the need for more robust efforts that would help create a safe and secure environment through, *inter alia*, the establishment and implementation of projects designed to increase economic opportunities. In this regard, making conditional all forms of assistance from international donors and agencies could encourage the necessary compliance and cooperation on the part of those concerned and would facilitate the return process.

Continued emphasis on reconciliation should remain one of the most important priorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The consequences of ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in the country must be reversed, and justice must be done and done quickly. In this regard, the work in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia is of particular importance, and the

international community must continue to strongly support this work. Clearly the continued freedom enjoyed by the leading war criminals, such as Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, sends the wrong signals and contributes to the climate of insecurity that limits further progress in the peace implementation process. The early arrest and prosecution of all indicted war criminals would not only serve to mete out justice, but also contribute to the accomplishment of the long-term goal of national reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Finally, my delegation commends UNMIBH for all its accomplishments thus far, including its successful project of establishing a Bosnia and Herzegovina police contingent for a United Nations peacekeeping operation. It is also encouraging to note that preparations are already under way for the establishment of a Bosnia and Herzegovina military contingent for a similar purpose.

Mr. Cappagli (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to express our thanks for the Secretary-General's report on the progress that has been made by the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) since 17 December 1999, as well as for the oral briefing that has been given by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Hédi Annabi.

According to the Secretary-General's report, there is no doubt that progress has been made with regard to police restructuring, the revision of the judicial system and the establishment, in January, of the unified police force in Brčko. In this context, we should note the good work of that unified police force during the ceremony that took place on the occasion of the creation of the Brčko District. The Mission's efforts to modify the ethnic make-up of local police forces so as to properly reflect the multi-ethnic nature of the communities that they serve, to improve cooperation between the police of the two entities, to depoliticize the local police forces and to promote the establishment of a judicial police deserve our full support.

It is regrettable, however, that, despite the agreement in the New York Declaration, Parliament's repeated failure to pass the State Border Service Law compelled the High Representative to impose it on 13 January.

We are also concerned about the fact that some officials persist in perpetuating divisions instead of working to foster integrated coexistence. In this context, we can only repudiate the attitude taken by the Croat authorities in Mostar with regard to Bosniac officials, whom they are preventing from working in the same building as their Croat counterparts.

We do not want to miss this opportunity to underscore the importance of the decision taken recently by the High Representative for the establishment of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the entry into force of the District Statute and the designation of the appropriate authorities. We hope that the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of both entities will take all the necessary measures to enable the District to develop fully.

We agree with the Secretary-General that the promise of the recently elected Government of Croatia to respect the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina and cooperate with its population and with the international community is a positive development.

In conclusion, we reaffirm our support for the initiative to form a contingent of police officers from both entities and the three ethnic groups for service in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Wang Yingfan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), and to thank Mr. Annabi for his briefing.

We have noted that UNMIBH has done some useful work since the end of last year in assisting police restructuring and the review of the judicial system. In particular, progress has been made in establishing a multi-ethnic police force, which is commendable. We hope that UNMIBH will continue its work. If we are successful in establishing a multi-ethnic police force in Bosnia, it will provide lessons from which other United Nations peacekeeping operations can learn.

We have also noted that problems remain in Bosnia. National reconciliation still faces many obstacles and difficulties. There are incidents of blackmail and other crimes, political interference and corruption among the ethnic groups. Resolving these problems will require the continued efforts of the various parties in Bosnia and the international community, and UNMIBH in particular.

The Secretary-General made it clear in his report that UNMIBH needs support from the Security Council, as well as from Member States with influence on the Bosnian Croat and Bosnian Serb authorities, so as to help

it carry out its work. This recommendation by the Secretary-General warrants our attention.

Mr. Ben Mustapha (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): I should like first of all to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH). We listened with interest to the briefing given my Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and we thank him for the useful information that he has just given us. We pay tribute to the personnel of UNMIBH for their devotion and for the tireless efforts that they are constantly making for the cause of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and throughout the region.

The Secretary-General's report and Mr. Annabi's statement have given an account of new progress made by UNMIBH. These developments are especially encouraging as they are taking place in sensitive and vital areas: the restructuring and changing of the mono-ethnic nature of the police force, the creation of a reliable and impartial judicial system and the consolidation of a State based on the rule of law.

All the initiatives undertaken by UNMIBH have been necessary, especially since, in accordance with the approach envisioned and taken by UNMIBH, they were intended to contribute to strengthening national identity and to mobilizing both the people and the authorities around a common plan: the complete elimination of ethnic rifts, which we believe to be the major obstacle to the reconciliation for which we all hope.

It is true that, as the report states, some initiatives intended to create a dynamic for peace and requiring the ongoing commitment of the international community as a whole have come up against obstructive actions. The firm and steadfast support of the Security Council for UNMIBH will help overcome resistance and put pressure on the forces that are opposed to change.

We note that, despite the encouraging progress made, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains precarious. Insecurity and instability, the return of refugees and the difficult economic and social problems are still sources of concern requiring stronger commitment on the part of the international community and closer coordination between all the actors.

It is in this context that the activities of United Nations bodies are taking place in various areas. Such activities, especially those undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are all part of a comprehensive and multidisciplinary vision, which plays an essential role in establishing a unified approach contributing to the attainment of a common goal.

In this context, it is important to stress the educational role to be played by UNESCO in promoting a culture of tolerance and peace so as to produce a new generation in Bosnia and Herzegovina that will have overcome the psychological torment of a conflict that has marked both the Bosnian conscience and that of the international community.

Furthermore, we are convinced that the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot be contemplated without an overarching vision that applies to the entire region of the Balkans, which is facing many similar challenges.

Mr. Levitte (France) (*spoke in French*): I should like first of all to welcome this opportunity today for some States directly concerned by the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to express their views. I should like to thank Mr. Annabi for the information that he provided.

The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) and its main component, the International Police Task Force, are carrying out their activities discreetly but effectively. The task entrusted to them by the Security Council is to establish the main elements of a genuine State of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina. That is the purpose of the International Police Task Force in training local police officers and integrating minority representatives into local police forces. This is also the purpose of UNMIBH's more recent contribution to the programme of reform of the judicial structures, under the auspices of the High Representative. The aim is for every citizen in Bosnia and Herzegovina to have recourse to the police and the courts in order to exercise his rights, without fear of discriminatory treatment of his case as a result of ethnic origin.

This also involves fighting the corruption and the pressures that continue to hamper the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNMIBH continues to run into strong obstructionist forces in implementing its mandate, a task that remains difficult and that requires sustained political and material support.

The existence of other crises in the region should not distract attention from the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. France, which provides the International Police Task Force with over 100 police officers, will continue to support the Mission and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in their activities.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for having chosen a French Gendarmerie officer, General Coeurderoy, to lead the International Police Task Force. General Coeurderoy will be determined to build on the achievements of his predecessors, whose activities we would like once again to praise.

I would like to make four specific comments and to put some questions to the Secretariat. My first comment relates to the creation of the Border Service. As we see it, the creation of such a service is essential to combat smuggling and to build a genuine State. Unfortunately, the High Representative himself had to impose the law creating the service, since the Parliament had not passed the relevant law. It is obviously regrettable that things happened in this way, and this once again raises the fundamental question — often raised in this forum, even by the High Representative himself — of the need for the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina themselves to take hold of the future of their own country.

The Joint Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina has just reported to the Security Council on the implementation of the agreements adopted here on 15 November 1999. This development should be encouraged in order to give real follow-up to the decisions adopted. Despite delays, and thanks to the courageous decision of the High Representative, the Border Service will come into being. My question is this: could Mr. Annabi give us a precise idea of the timetable and funding envisaged for the establishment of that vital service?

My second question concerns the need to reform the judicial structures. This question has already been raised by the Ambassador of the United Kingdom. UNMIBH contributes to that reform by carrying out assessments in the context of a broader programme under the auspices of the High Representative. That work should be completed by the end of this year. What will then be the subsequent stages of that reform process? Is it envisaged that UNMIBH will continue to play a role in the later stages, and, if not, what organizations would be involved in implementing the reform?

My third remark concerns the proposal made by UNMIBH, in the framework of the Stability Pact, to create a police training college for all South-Eastern Europe. The training of police officers is obviously one of the important tasks that has been carried out by the United Nations in numerous missions in the Balkans. We should like to have more details as to the modalities and objectives of such a school.

My fourth and last comment is of a more general nature. The French delegation would be interested to receive an appraisal from the Secretariat as to the effects on the work of UNMIBH of regional developments, such as the situation in Kosovo and, as the report notes, the political changes in Croatia.

The value of these meetings undoubtedly lies in getting detailed information from the Secretariat. But above and beyond that, these meetings should also offer us an opportunity to lend our full support to United Nations missions, in particular by supporting their activities on specific points. Two particularly noteworthy matters are addressed in the report before us today. The first has to do with the difficulties encountered in canton 7, Mostar, and the second with the recruitment of police from minority groups in the Republika Srpska. On those two points it seems to us that the Council should call on those responsible to ensure that they act in accordance with their obligations within the shortest possible period of time.

Mr. Yel'chenko (Ukraine): We welcome the format of today's meeting, and we thank Mr. Annabi for his comprehensive briefing.

My delegation welcomes the progress report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH). Ukraine is largely satisfied with the work done by the Mission over the reporting period, in particular in the fields of police restructuring and reform and the reform of the judicial system. With regard to the restructuring of the police, we recognize the particular importance of effective implementation of the data collection project on police trends in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the establishment of the inter-entity Ministerial Consultative Meeting on Police Matters (MCMP) and the progress made towards setting up court police.

At the same time, my delegation is concerned about the reported instances of obstruction and delays in the integration of Bosniac and Croat police officers in Mostar

and other parts of canton 7, as well as the establishment of the State Border Service. No obstruction or resistance to achieving these goals should be tolerated, and more assertive measures on the part of UNMIBH are to be considered. In this context, we support the imposition by the High Representative of the State Border Service Law following another failure by the Parliament to pass the necessary legislation.

The inauguration of the Brčko District Police Service is of great importance. We hope that it will contribute to the implementation of the Dayton Agreement, as far as Brčko is concerned, to the satisfaction of both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We would like to be familiarized with the final version of the new draft Brčko District Statute before its entry into force. In this regard, we would like to request the Secretariat to provide us with a text as soon as the draft is completed.

My delegation is encouraged by the report of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the implementation of the New York Declaration. The very fact that this report was submitted to the Security Council is quite remarkable, given the problem of cooperation between the Members of the Presidency in the past. The report cites a number of important steps the Presidency took in implementing the New York Declaration, specifically the establishment of a joint secretariat, the organization of the Council of Ministers and the establishment of the first civilian police joint unit for United Nations operations.

We believe that further progress in the peace process will be achieved after adoption by the Bosnian Parliament of the electoral law and changes to the law on passports, which will pave the way to the introduction of a single national passport.

While we welcome the report of the Presidency, we acknowledge the existence of serious difficulties in its activity as a single body representing all the peoples of the country. An indicator of these problems is the position of one Member of the Presidency regarding the process of deconstituization of Croats in Bosnia, as stated in the letter of 29 February 2000 addressed to the Secretary-General.

We also have taken note with concern of some negative and quite dangerous tendencies to revise the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement advocated by some officials of the country. This relates to the letter of 9 February 2000 to the Council from the co-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Silajdžić, containing a "Memorandum on Change". We believe that it is high time to deploy multiple and joint efforts to complete the implementation of the Dayton Accord rather than attempt to revise it.

It is generally recognized that the progress achieved in bringing peace to Bosnia and Herzegovina has been significant. Peace is putting down deep roots, but its foundation is still shaky. There is still a long way to go to make the peace process in Bosnia irreversible. The international community and the United Nations should spare no effort to this end. We should also think of how to better coordinate these efforts in order to avoid any mistakes rather than always placing the blame on different entities of Bosnia.

For its part, Ukraine, as a member of the Peace Implementation Council and a police contributor to the International Police Task Force (IPTF), stands ready to continue its support for the activities of UNMIBH and to contribute further to the peace process in Bosnia.

Mr. Ward (Jamaica): My delegation also welcomes the format of today's meeting, which enhances the transparency of the Council's work and which allows countries with particular interests in the matter under consideration an opportunity to participate in the discussions.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report and Mr. Annabi for his update on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We also commend Mr. Jacques Paul Klein and the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) for their work in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which we fully support. We recognize the important role it has played in an effort to return normalcy to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We attach great importance to the ongoing efforts to consolidate peace and stability and create a multi-ethnic society and multi-ethnic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Implementation of the New York Declaration is critical to this process.

We note the efforts made at police restructuring and reform, and in particular the screening for law enforcement personnel, as well as the incremental progress being made in changing the composition of the police force to reflect the multi-ethnic character of the communities it serves. The initiatives to improve their technical and democratic policing skills are noteworthy. We attach importance to the continued emphasis on

training of the police officers and agree that the key to self-sustaining police reform is professional training.

We are concerned about the issues raised in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Secretary-General's report, specifically the difficulties with the integration of Bosniac and Croat police officers in canton 7 and the political and administrative delays in the establishment of the State Border Service. We note that the latter issue is being addressed, as referred to by Mr. Annabi in his briefing.

We agree that police restructuring and reform must be complemented with judicial reform. Political, institutional and technical impediments to the effective functioning of the judiciary must be removed. The entrenchment of law and order is contingent upon an efficient and organized judiciary, and we look forward to being briefed in the future on progress in judicial reform.

It is encouraging to note that the level of coordination between UNMIBH, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has been increasing, particularly on issues such as refugees and human rights training. We wish to emphasize that the work of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is critical in the areas of capacity-building and training and that the long-term development and sustainability of Bosnia and Herzegovina lies in its human resources and the strengthening of its institutions.

We are aware that there are numerous challenges in the discharge of UNMIBH's mandate. We remain convinced that the cooperation of all groups is needed, and we urge those in authority and in positions of influence to strengthen their collaboration with UNMIBH.

Mrs. Ashipala-Musavyi (Namibia): We also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH). We would like also to thank Mr. Annabi for the very useful update he has given us on that situation.

My delegation notes with appreciation that despite some enormous and continuing difficulties, UNMIBH has made significant progress in the area of police restructuring, the review of the judicial system and the establishment of the Brčko unified police force.

We take note of the problems facing UNMIBH in the integration of Bosniac and Croat police officers in canton 7, the establishment of the State Border Service, and the non-compliance with the Mission's International Police Task Force, which, among other things, creates mistrust and apprehension and indeed retards the efforts of UNMIBH to establish transparent and accountable police forces. This notwithstanding, it is our earnest hope that for the sake of peace and reconciliation these and other related problems will be resolved sooner rather than later to permit the restructuring and reform exercise to continue.

In this connection, my delegation fully agrees with the observation of the Secretary-General, as stated in paragraph 33 of his report, on the need for the Council to support UNMIBH in its efforts to implement these endeavours.

We also note the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, which focus on programmes which support the return of refugees, internally displaced persons, demining exercises and the welfare of children. In this context, we welcome the successful completion of the pilot projects addressing violence against women. All of these are very important projects which my delegation values highly. We hope that funds will be made available for the implementation of these projects.

Finally, we appreciate the efforts to form a Bosnia and Herzegovina police contingent for service in a United Nations peacekeeping operation, and we agree with the observation stated in the Secretary-General's report in this regard.

Mr. Hamer (Netherlands): I should like to thank Mr. Annabi for introducing the report and for the additional information he has provided.

While we are pleased to note that there have been positive developments such as police restructuring and judicial reform, we are disappointed at the lack of progress in the political field. A draft electoral law was presented to the Parliament twice, and twice lawmakers could not agree on its passing.

My delegation finds it difficult to conceive of any step towards further integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina in international structures as long as the Parliament fails to adopt an electoral law. Such a law is a precondition for democratic processes to evolve.

Over the past four months, the international community has witnessed the uncommon spectacle of a Council of Ministers' coming close to being declared unconstitutional. The efforts of the Constitutional Court and of the Presidency notwithstanding, the problem remains and a solution has not been found. The Netherlands urges the parties concerned to engage in meaningful cooperation and to show a willingness to compromise in order to create common institutions and to make them work.

We are pleased to note from Mr. Annabi's briefing that there has been some long-overdue progress in the implementation of the law of the State Border Service. Still, relations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) leave room for improvement. They are impairing the willingness of donor countries to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina. Under the current circumstances, it is even uncertain that the donor conference scheduled for the end of June by the World Bank can take place as planned. Therefore, we urge the parties to honour their countries' international commitments, not least because this would facilitate international efforts to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Netherlands is concerned about the current strength of the Stabilization Force (SFOR). Its numbers have reportedly already sunk below the lowest acceptable level of 20,000 persons deployed. In the view of the Netherlands, the deployment of SFOR contingents should be kept at the mandated strength. In this context, I should like to note that the Netherlands is not in favour of armed contingents of the International Police Task Force (IPTF).

I have already noted that, under the prevailing circumstances, it is difficult to conceive of steps towards the further integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into international structures. My delegation strongly believes that this process should be reversed and that active steps should be taken towards the further integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the concert of nations. Therefore, the Netherlands supports the concept of a road-map, as proposed by European Union (EU) Commissioner Patten during his recent visit to Sarajevo. This road-map towards a feasibility study may be a first step towards an eventual stabilization and association agreement with the EU.

Finally, the Netherlands associates itself fully with the statement to be made by Portugal, on behalf of the EU, as a member of the Peace Implementation Council.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

First of all, we thank Mr. Hédi Annabi for his very useful briefing.

Taking into account the main focus of the report of the Secretary-General, Bangladesh believes that it is important that the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord be accelerated. The Council needs to give strong signals to all key actors to extend their full support for the implementation of the Peace Accord.

We commend the newly elected Government of Croatia, which has pledged to cooperate with Bosnia and Herzegovina. We hope that it will put its pledge into action through its influence on the Bosnian Croat authorities to redouble their efforts for the peace process.

Similarly, we hope that the Bosnian Serb authorities will also be given support by the Serbs to this end. Support of these two crucial actors is critical if the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) is to make considerable headway in its mandate.

The key role in the engagement of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the areas of police restructuring and the consolidation of the judicial system. A yardstick for the success of United Nations involvement will be the amount of progress that can be made in these areas. We welcome the important initiatives launched recently, but note from the Secretary-General's report that progress is dependent on overcoming the political and other factors causing obstruction and delays. We hope that, with the willingness and cooperation of all parties concerned, considerable headway in the efforts of UNMIBH will be possible in the coming days.

In conclusion, Bangladesh would like to emphasize that the international community, particularly those having influence in the region, has to redouble efforts to see to it that the Dayton Accord is speedily and fully implemented.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I now call on the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to make a statement.

Mr. Sacirbey (Bosnia and Herzegovina): Let me express how pleased we are to see you, Sir, in your current position of leadership. It is most fortuitous for Bosnia and Herzegovina. We also welcome the format and substance of this meeting. We think it serves our purposes well.

We have two statements to make, and then I would like to offer to answer any further questions and comments from those participating in this debate. Now, let me very briefly comment not so much on the substance of the report that has been provided, but on the methodology at work here.

The Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina has most recently forwarded a progress report on the implementation of the Peace Agreement, in particular the New York Declaration. This should stand on its own, although I am prepared also to answer questions on this point. Regarding the methodology of the report provided to the Security Council, let me first make the following points.

First, it is most constructive that the issues are addressed in such detail, with the problems being specifically outlined. This moves us away from the placement of collective guilt or responsibility, from generalizations and from the entrenching of unhelpful and illegitimate stereotypes. I hope, too, that Mr. Annabi will have the opportunity to acknowledge that, besides the obstructionists, there are also many — maybe even the majority — from all ethnic backgrounds who are supportive of the efforts of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) and who are the backbone of the growing success of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In this spirit, I am most proud to ask the Council to take note, only briefly and without the fanfare and congratulations that have been offered in some instances, that the Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations is fully integrated, with all entities and ethnic groups represented. Our work here at the United Nations reflects goodwill and a professional commitment to peace in our country.

Secondly, consistent with Ambassador Greenstock's comments regarding an exit strategy, I think we need to review the effectiveness of the numerous international factors operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Certainly, without them the implementation of the Dayton/Paris accords would not be possible. Nonetheless, with the maturing presence of a variety of international factors, we would be wise to evaluate — and certainly we would encourage such an evaluation — the effectiveness of such factors in fulfilling their mandate within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina are held accountable by the international community and, most importantly, by the constituency of Bosnia and Herzegovina — that is, its voters. I think it is also appropriate that those international factors be held accountable by a body such as the Security Council.

Coincidentally, we would also agree with Ambassador Greenstock's view of the Judicial System Assessment Programme (JSAP). A change in the methodology of the work of the local institutions, particularly the judicial institutions, is as critical as any change in ideology.

Before I surrender the floor, I would also like briefly to address some of the other comments made by other members of the Council, Ambassador Lavrov in particular. The Dayton/Paris accords have constitutionally enshrined Bosnia and Herzegovina's full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal. The accords, particularly in the annexes, in fact also adopted the mechanisms of the arrests that have been performed. The Dayton/Paris accords continue to enjoy the full support and confidence of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Despite the numerous arrests that have been carried out by the Stabilization Force (SFOR) and other legal forces within Bosnia and Herzegovina, the sovereign authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina — that is, the Presidency — has not sought fit to challenge such arrests.

Secondly, the Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations will make a sincere effort to provide to this Council and this international body as a whole the accepted positions of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Government as a whole, and sometimes the views, even if controversial, of important political leaders within Bosnia and Herzegovina. We do this to inform the Council rather than to advocate. In that sense, the Council will in fact soon receive a proposal by a member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Ante Jelavić. I must empha ize that this is not necessarily something that the Mission would agree with, but it is for the purpose of information and making a helpful contribution to the debate regarding the accords and their implementation.

But here, let me offer a very personal view. The success of the implementation of the Dayton-Paris

Accords, and in particular needed initiatives — or infusions if you will — such as the New York Declaration, will be the best counter to those who believe that the only option for progress is to change the Dayton-Paris Accords.

Thirdly, although I am not here to defend the words or actions of any member of the Presidency, I do not believe that it is either accurate or helpful to characterize President Izetbegović's words as stating that the members of another ethnic group, as such, are enemies. I believe that Ambassador Lavrov is mistaken in his reading. However, most important, I do not believe that any — I emphasize "any" — member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina sees members of another ethnic group, purely by their ethnicity, as enemies. That would be to perpetuate the dangerous stereotypes of a vicious cycle of ethnic hatreds in Bosnia and Herzegovina. That is not the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

To paraphrase the words of the representative of Jamaica, all of us in Bosnia and Herzegovina know that our greatest resource is all of our people, and of course our diversity. I thank that representative for those words.

Let me conclude on a promising note. I thank the Council for a most constructive debate and for its continued support. In particular, let me express our appreciation for the efforts of Mr. Jacques Paul Klein and the entire staff of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. We are now partners, with the added benefit of Bosnians of all backgrounds participating in United Nations police and peacekeeping efforts. That is good for the United Nations and for us, and we look forward to enhancing such efforts and opportunities. In that context, the representative of Italy will enlighten us all about some further helpful efforts in that direction.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Portugal. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Monteiro (Portugal): It is a pleasure, Sir, to see you presiding over the work of the Security Council; I wish you continued success.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — and the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, as well as the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, align themselves with this statement.

Allow me to thank Mr. Annabi for his briefing and his update to the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH).

As the single largest contributor to the international assistance effort in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union and its member States remain committed to continuing their support for economic and democratic consolidation, reintegration of refugees and reconciliation in that country. This year, 100 million euros have been allocated to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the following priority areas: support for the return process, institution-building, cooperation with the European Investment Bank, customs and fiscal assistance, economic regeneration, media support, education and technical assistance. Over the last few years, this has added up to more than 1 billion euros for reconstruction and technical assistance and a similar amount for humanitarian aid. In total, the European Union has provided more than 2.5 billion euros to Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1991.

The European Union also provides support to the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in its work with police academies and in assistance to judicial reform. Of course, European Union member States continue to provide significant numbers of police monitors for UNMIBH and troops for the Stabilization Force (SFOR), as well as seconding personnel to the Office of the High Representative, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM).

The European Union also continues to work actively within the Peace Implementation Council towards the full implementation of the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement and supports fully the efforts of the High Representative in that regard. We must, however, reaffirm the view of the European Union that Bosnians themselves must move this process much further and much faster. In fact, the long-term future of Bosnia and Herzegovina depends on this.

The European Union Council of Ministers recently welcomed the initiative of the European Commission on a road map for Bosnia and Herzegovina to help pave the way towards a feasibility study on the opening of negotiations for a stabilization and association agreement. But the pace of progress in this regard will depend on the

readiness of the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the stabilization and association process.

The European Union is, therefore, concerned that the Bosnian leadership has yet to implement the letter and the spirit of the New York Declaration of 15 November 1999. The European Union reiterates its call for the early and comprehensive implementation of the Declaration in all its parts and urges the Bosnian parties urgently to overcome their difficulties. We regret in this regard the delay in the establishment of the State Border Service.

Firm and positive steps must very soon be taken towards the full implementation of the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement and the effective functioning of the relevant institutions if the European Union is to continue to remain engaged in the reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina at current levels.

The European Union looks forward to the Bosnian parties registering such essential progress by the next meeting of the Peace Implementation Council, in May, and, in this regard, expects the smooth conduct of free and fair municipal elections in April.

The long-term stabilization of Bosnia and Herzegovina is being sought in the context of the Stability Pact signed at Cologne in June last year, with a view to achieving lasting peace, prosperity and stability for the region as a whole. In this regard, the European Union fully supports the efforts by the Special Coordinator of the Pact, the European Commission and the World Bank, aimed at achieving a substantive outcome of the regional funding conference to take place on 29 and 30 March and at putting together a credible package of quick-start projects.

The European Union also continues to attach great importance to the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and to bringing to trial those indicted by the Tribunal. The European Union recalls the duty of all States to cooperate with the Tribunal in delivering indicted persons into its custody.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Germany. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kastrup (Germany): I appreciate that Member States that are not members of the Council but are highly involved in the implementation of the Dayton/Paris Peace Agreement are being given an opportunity to express their views on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. My Government very much welcomes this step towards more transparent and, therefore, credible work by the Council.

I would like to thank all those who have supported us and ask for the understanding of those who have been reluctant so far. We have suggested, as Council members know, that the speaking time of non-members be limited to not more than five minutes. I will try to live up to that self-imposed restriction.

First of all, I would like to associate myself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union by the Portuguese presidency. But please allow me to make a few remarks as the representative of a country that is heavily involved in the peace process. We share the view expressed by the Secretary-General and repeated by Mr. Annabi today that there is slow progress in the implementation of the Dayton/Paris Agreement as well as in that of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH). Germany is therefore of the opinion that — despite other crises in the region which are requiring the full attention and commitment of large resources — the mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina is far from being finished. We therefore call on Member States to maintain their involvement at a high level so as not to lose the momentum created over the past four years.

My country welcomes the report of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the progress in implementing their New York Declaration of 15 November 1999, and I listened carefully and with the greatest interest to what our colleague from Bosnia and Herzegovina told us today. The commitments made in this Declaration are well on their way towards being translated into concrete measures.

Germany, however, cannot but express disappointment that, once again, progress was possible only after the intervention of the High Representative. We hope that in the future the political leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be able to live up to their responsibilities. The early adoption of an electoral law and the provision of sufficient budgetary resources to implement it would be visible proof of the maturity of the political leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of their capability to take ownership of their affairs. I would like to associate myself with the remarks of my French colleague, who spoke of the need for the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to take hold of their country's destiny.

In this context, we would like to learn more about the experience so far with the implementation of the State Border Service Law, in particular with the responsible authority for the Border Service. It would also be of interest to know whether Bosnia and Herzegovina will provide adequate funds in its budget for the implementation of the Law. What are the planned next steps?

We share the Secretary-General's concerns about the continuing obstruction by Bosnian-Herzegovinan Croat politicians in Mostar. Successful integration of the police force and of the administration in general in Mostar would set a precedent and allow for a breakthrough elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Germany is ready to cooperate with UNMIBH and with the High Representative in pursuing this goal. To this end, we would be grateful to learn what steps UNMIBH and the High Representative plan for the near future.

The Secretary-General's report states that the judicial assessment programme will have concluded its task by the end of this year. Given the fact that the implementation of the reform of the judicial system has just started, and that it is highly likely that there will be attempts to obstruct this process, Germany would like to know how this reform will be furthered and which body will be responsible for the supervision of the judicial reform process. This question has already been asked by other participants in this meeting.

My country welcomes the measures undertaken by UNMIBH to raise the qualification standards for the personnel of the International Police Task Force. In view of the focus on co-location and consultancy tasks, those higher standards will be essential if these tasks are to be successfully carried out.

With regard to the options to be explored in connection with the security needs of the Mission, as mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, Germany would like to draw the attention of the Council to the experience of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, which could be taken into consideration for UNMIBH as well.

I thank you, Sir, for the Council's attention and, once again, for the opportunity to take the floor on this occasion.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Turkey. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Göktürk (Turkey): It gives my delegation particular satisfaction to see at the helm of the Security Council the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, a country with which Turkey maintains the closest of friendly bonds. We thank Assistant Secretary-General Annabi for the briefing he has given and welcome in particular the progress so far achieved in restructuring the police force and the steps taken to improve judicial practice and procedure.

The report of the Secretary-General, just summarized, also provides us with a clearer picture of where the players in Bosnia and Herzegovina currently stand. Especially revealing in this respect is the way the efforts of the United Nations mission to restructure the police force as a truly multi-ethnic one are treated in certain parts of the country. Those who persistently attempt to thwart this process must comprehend that they are in fact undermining their own security and future.

Implementation of the Dayton/Paris Accords remains our constant objective. Bosnia and Herzegovina should be preserved as a multi-ethnic, multicultural, independent and sovereign State within internationally recognized borders. High Representative Wolfgang Petritsch enjoys my Government's full support in his task. Equally, we stand by the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Coordinator Jacques Paul Klein, whose forthright approach to the realities of Bosnia and Herzegovina is commendable.

But nothing can be effectively achieved or endure solely on the basis of the perseverance of the international community; the real actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina must take charge of the tasks at hand. Among these tasks, the safe return of refugees and displaced persons remains an urgent priority. The electoral law, drafted by international and local experts, needs to be considered and adopted by the State Parliament without further procrastination, and the effective functioning of the common institutions is a prerequisite for their popular acceptance as credible seats of authority and for the success of the economic and social recovery programme.

The Government which emerged from the recent elections in Croatia has taken a step in the right direction by declaring that the Bosnian Croats should no longer look to Zagreb for help but to Sarajevo. This is a welcome development for Bosnia and Herzegovina, as that declaration is a recognition of the fact that the peoples of that country have a common destiny. If carried

into effect, this approach will surely facilitate State-building efforts.

We all admit that building a common future on the agony and ashes resulting from a brutal war is no easy undertaking. Against that backdrop, cooperation by all States with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia becomes essential not only for serving justice, but also for helping usher in a new era in which the sides will no longer feel the urge to demonize each other. Ms. Carla del Ponte, the Prosecutor of the Tribunal, was once again assured of Turkey's cooperation during her recent visit to Ankara.

My country rushed to help Bosnia and Herzegovina in every possible way throughout its years of tragedy. We are now a prominent supporter of its State-building and reconstruction efforts. Our contributions to the wider area, within the context of the Stability Pact, are also substantial. Effective State institutions and a self-sustaining economy will enable Bosnia and Herzegovina to benefit more efficiently from the resources made available to it.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Italy. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Francese (Italy): First of all, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing today's meeting, through which the Bangladesh presidency is helping make the Security Council more effective and fully consistent with the spirit and letter of Article 31 of the Charter, as well as of article 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council.

The international community's success in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a fundamental test for the region as a whole. As Carl Bildt recalled, the only way to address crisis areas is through a regional approach. The Permanent Representative of Portugal has already effectively described the central role that the European Union plays in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Italy fully endorses his statement. I would like to add that, last July, Sarajevo became the location of the summit that launched the Stability Pact, an ambitious project that involves the countries of the region in an economic and political reconstruction policy aimed at their complete integration into the European context.

The key objective of my statement today is integration — a discussion of integration against the background of still-active forces of disintegration. I would like to emphasize that there are two paramount goals: integration within Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into its natural geopolitical context, which is that of Europe.

Thus far, the forces of disintegration have prevailed, fomented by what Nobel laureate John Hume has called the seeds of war. New outside enemies have been invented for the sake of keeping power inside societies, and this trend must now be reversed. Diversity must no longer be seen as a threat. Recent developments in Croatia have moved precisely in the right direction and shown the way.

Allow me to describe some of the priorities of the Italian Government in pursuing these goals. On the domestic integration front, we are strongly involved in two key sectors: justice and military cooperation. As regards justice, the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina led Italy, in 1993, to present the draft statute of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The first President of the Tribunal was an Italian citizen, magistrate and judge, Antonio Cassese. In Rome in 1998, Italy also sponsored the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Now, while awaiting completion of the signing and ratification process, we are actively promoting the work of the Court's Preparatory Commission, aimed at defining aggression and the rules of procedure, and we applaud the commitment in particular of the Bosnian delegation to this end.

The other aspect is that of the armed forces. Pursuant to the Dayton/Paris Peace Agreement and the New York Declaration, we can also make a concrete contribution to the integration of the armed forces in that country. The armed forces still in Bosnia and Herzegovina can be transformed from divisive elements into forces for internal and external integration. Inter-entity military cooperation can lead to the creation of joint units that will participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations elsewhere, in other parts of the world. The Secretary-General's report notes interesting progress in this regard, and Italy, for its part, has just invited a mixed battalion from Bosnia and Herzegovina, consisting of personnel from the three ethnic groups, to participate, together with a brigade of Italian paratroopers, in peacekeeping manoeuvres in Italian territory for two weeks. This will be the first test of joint exercises involving the different ethnic units of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In this context, it is also fitting to recall two initiatives in favour of the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into its natural European context. On 19 and 20 May this year, the city of Ancona will host a conference for the development and security of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas. The participants will include the leading officials of the European Union and the Foreign Ministers of Adriatic and Ionian countries, including, obviously, the Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is an Adriatic country. Italian civil society has a long-standing commitment to the grass-roots integration of the region. An early example was the extensive programme of decentralized cooperation implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As further evidence, the Presidents of the regions of the Italian east coast will also be in Ancona.

The conference will focus on safeguarding the environment and water resources, navigation and cooperation, cultural and tourist cooperation and the fight against crime, which comes from across the Adriatic and is a threat to law and order in my country, too. Criminality and corruption squeeze economic growth and block private international investment. A commitment to this sector would thus foster both the domestic growth of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its international integration.

We must underline the fact that Italy considers with great interest the observation in the report of the Secretary-General on UNMIBH's need for more security in order for it to be more efficient in its police and judiciary functions. In this regard, I must recall the special professional background of the Italian corps of *carabinieri* engaged in the country, who have a dual professional profile, acting as both policemen and soldiers. They have been placed in the International Police Task Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, above all, in the multinational specialized unit of the Stabilization Force, in Kosovo and in other regions of the world.

Finally, culture and education also deserve a focus in the efforts of integration. To this end, a cultural initiative is being organized by the Italian Government in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations and with the universities of Sarajevo and of Rome. It will take the form of a seminar, hosted in the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and devoted to the role of universities in humanitarian assistance and the peace process in crisis areas. This will be a great occasion to underline that culture, and universities in particular, are the best way to build bridges of peace.

And speaking of bridges, in conclusion, we cannot forget that the pseudo-culture of disintegration has led to the destruction of the Mostar bridge, which was a unique testimony to the dialogue of culture among civilizations. In this context, the reconstruction of the bridge is emblematic of the rebirth of the city of Mostar, a development that should rightly spur efforts in other areas of the city and of the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The President: At this point, I would like to thank in particular the colleagues from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Portugal, Germany, Turkey and Italy for their very kind words addressed to me and my country.

I shall now give the floor to Mr. Annabi to respond to some of the comments and questions raised. Of course, I shall also offer the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina the floor to respond to any questions to which he may wish to respond.

Mr. Annabi: There have been several questions linked to the expected completion of the judicial system assessment programme by the end of this year. As is indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, it is indeed our expectation that this programme can be completed by the end of this year; in other words, what will be completed will be the judicial assessment programme. Judicial reform, of course, will have to continue. That is more of a long-term process, which is under the overall responsibility of the High Representative. Should the High Representative turn to the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), as he did in the case of the judicial assessment programme, and request its assistance in the field of judicial reform, such a request would of course have to be considered and discussed with all concerned, including the members of the Council. We would come back to the Council in due course if that should happen.

We see the judicial assessment activities of UNMIBH as being separate from its general mandate, which is the implementation of annex 11 of the Dayton Agreement. The general mandate of UNMIBH is not, in our view, restricted to police, but also covers — as indicated in annex 11 — monitoring, observing and inspecting judicial organizations, structures and proceedings. This mandate existed before UNMIBH became involved in judicial assessment, before judicial assessment was added to the tasks of UNMIBH. It will of course continue to exist once the judicial assessment programme is completed.

There have also been several questions on a possible exit strategy for UNMIBH. In this regard, I want to point out that the present report of the Secretary-General is only a progress report. In three months' time there will be another report, which will be an end-of-mandate report and which will take stock of the situation in a more comprehensive manner and take a more forward-looking approach in which it will be our intention to provide UNMIBH's plans and recommendations for future action.

There have also been several questions on the State Border Service, and in particular on the calendar for its establishment and on its funding. As I indicated in my briefing, the structure of the State Border Service has now been agreed by the Joint Presidency, and we therefore hope that this can move forward. Under the revised timetable foreseen for the setting up of the Border Service, it is envisaged that a headquarters and four units will be established by mid-July. Those four units would be responsible for controlling border entry at Sarajevo airport, which is now under Federation control; at Buljanie, which is currently under Bosnian Croat control; at Zvornik, which is currently under Bosnian Serb control; and at Izacic, which is now under Bosniac control. It is envisaged that to perform those activities a total of some 300 officers and personnel will be needed. Ninety of them have already been trained, with the generous cooperation of the Government of Austria. Training for another 180 is now being planned.

With regard to funding, UNMIBH has been successful in ensuring that the State Border Service will be treated as a separate line item in the budget prepared by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This will ensure that interested donors — and we understand that there are quite a few — will have a clear picture of the costs of the Border Service and of the use of the funds that will be made available to support the establishment and functioning of the Service.

There was also a question about the suggestion by UNMIBH, in the context of the Stability Pact, regarding the establishment of a South-East European Police Staff College. This is only a suggestion by UNMIBH. Such a college could be established in Bosnia and Herzegovina, or elsewhere. We feel that the funding would need to be provided through the Stability Pact mechanisms and that the members of the Stability Pact would also have to assign an implementing agency for this regional staff college. We do not, however, see UNMIBH as the sponsor or the implementing agency for the staff college.

Finally, there was a question regarding the linkages between the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the rest of the region, in particular Kosovo and Croatia. There is no doubt, of course, that — as the Ambassador of France has said — progress in some areas, and perhaps in many areas in UNMIBH and in Bosnia, is linked to improvement in the overall political and economic situation in the wider region, as the Secretary-General has indicated in his report. It is in this context that the Secretary-General has welcomed the pledge by the newly elected Government in Croatia to respect the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to cooperate with its people and with the international community in what it is trying to achieve there.

The Secretary-General, in this context, has asked his Special Envoy for the Balkans, Mr. Carl Bildt, in consultation with the other Special Representatives in the region, to reflect on some of these interlinkages. As has been mentioned by at least one member of the Council, Mr. Bildt will be preparing a report on some of these issues, and we will have more to say about them at that time.

The President: I thank Mr. Annabi for his response, and I give the floor to the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Sacirbey (Bosnia and Herzegovina): Frankly, I think that the comments made by Mr. Annabi accomplish most of the task of answering the questions. I should like simply to make a few observations.

The process of implementing the Border Service is still under way. I think it would be accurate to say that the difficulties in reaching an agreement and in mustering the political will necessary for some to agree obviously may be reflected in the implementation process, so it will be important to be vigilant. I am afraid that, if I say anything more, I will violate my neutrality.

Secondly, regarding the budget, it may be appropriate to kick-start some of the financial requirements with respect to the Border Service, and I thank countries like Austria and others that have helped us in this way. However, Dayton also envisioned a sharing of the resources stemming from customs revenues, and this ultimately should be more than enough to cover the budgetary demands of the Border Service. The difficulty right now is that the resources of the central Government are so limited. Most of the resources that come to the central Government do so through the

entities, so of course the central Government has at times found itself to be the object of the goodwill of the entities.

I think that one point on which we should expand a little bit more, because it is a direct responsibility of the Security Council, is the Judicial System Assessment Programme (JSAP). How does it continue? The truth is that it is a long-term process. I would like to emphasize here not only the issue of making a change in methodology but also that of addressing the institutional problem. Unfortunately, the Dayton Accord apparently — and I emphasize the word "apparently" — has left us with an institutional vacuum, which is an important factor in Bosnia and Herzegovina's integration into European institutions. Bosnia and Herzegovina does not yet have a link with the appropriate European courts, and particularly a court of human rights, that would allow cases to proceed from the local level all the way up to the level of the court in Strasbourg. That is because Bosnia and Herzegovina does not currently have a centralized judicial system, except for one narrowly defined court, the Supreme Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which generally does not handle these types of cases. We would ask JSAP, therefore, to take a look at this problem and see how we can move ahead with this process.

Finally, it is absolutely true that the regional situation has an impact on Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is very important for us to see further progress in the region, particularly in Belgrade, towards a commitment to cooperation and peace. At the same time, I would also be very careful not to view the region as one indistinguishable mess. Clearly it is possible to make progress in one area in Bosnia and Herzegovina when perhaps things do not appear to be going quite so well in some other regions. It is certainly not accurate to depict the region as being somehow characterized by various ethnic hatreds or even various ethnic compositions. One situation varies very significantly from the other. I think when we talk of Bosnia and Herzegovina, ethnicity should be the last consideration in our dialogue. Rather, it is a matter of making sure that the resources, the methodology and, of course, the political will exist. I think the ethnic factor will be, as I said, one of our advantages and one of our resources, rather than one of our obstacles.

Mr. Minton (United States of America): I will be brief. I should like to thank Mr. Annabi for his comments on the Judicial System Assessment Programme (JSAP). We understand, of course, the specific functions outlined in the mandate of resolution 1247 (1999) with regard to judicial reform. However, the United States still believes that "inspect, observe and monitor" will not allow adequate implementation of the JSAP reports and recommendations. Therefore we look forward to hearing from Mr. Annabi or from the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) about plans on how the work in this sector could be divided among those involved — that is, UNMIBH and perhaps organizations like the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which might enjoy a somewhat broader mandate in this area.

The President: There are no other speakers on my list.

I believe that we have had a very useful debate on this subject. We very much appreciate the briefing and update given by Mr. Annabi on the report of the Secretary-General. A few points emerged quite prominently from the debate.

Council members welcome the report of the Bosnia Joint Presidency concerning the implementation of the New York Declaration of 16 November 1999 and urge all parties to redouble their efforts to implement the outstanding commitments that remain to be fulfilled.

The members also urge those concerned to ensure without further delay the integration of the Ministry of Interior as well as the integration of the chain of command and communication systems of the police throughout the Federation and in particular in Mostar. The Council members look forward to a report from the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) on compliance with these requirements as soon as possible.

Council members also urge all parties, in particular the Republika Srpska authorities, to increase the number of minority police officers, in accordance with their obligations.

These are the points which I believe came out prominently in the discussion today.

The Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 2.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4118

Security Council
Fifty-fifth Year

Provisional

4118th Meeting
Thursday, 23 March 2000, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Chowdhury	(Bangladesh)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Cappagli
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Levitte
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mrs. Ashipala-Musavyi
	Netherlands	Mr. Hamer
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Tunisia	Mr. Ben Mustapha
	Ukraine	Mr. Yel'chenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Harrison
	United States of America	Ms. Soderberg

Agenda

Maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peace-building

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (S/2000/101)

00-35642 (E)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peace-building

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (S/2000/101)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Algeria, Bahrain, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore and South Africa, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Baali (Algeria), Mr. Buallay (Bahrain), Mr. Niehaus (Costa Rica), Mr. Simonovic (Croatia), Mr. Aboul Gheit (Egypt), Mr. Takasu (Japan), Mr. Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia), Mr. Powles (New Zealand), Mr. Kolby (Norway), Mr. Brito (Portugal), Mr. Mahbubani (Singapore) and Mr. Kumalo (South Africa) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: The Council Security will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, document S/2000/101.

I have great pleasure in inviting the Secretary-General to make his statement.

The Secretary-General: Let me begin by thanking you, Mr. President, and the members of the Security Council for your decision to convene today's meeting.

As the Council is well aware, peacekeeping today bears little resemblance to its original character. Many of today's peacekeeping operations seek not only to bring stability to areas of conflict, but also to address the root causes of conflict. This means tackling a wide variety of needs, ranging from the political to the social and the economic. In many conflict situations, the processes of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) are at the heart of these efforts.

That said, let me emphasize at the outset that no efforts of ours can be a substitute for the political will of the parties to commit themselves to peace. Still, the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation has frequently made a crucial contribution, not least by helping create an environment where this process can proceed.

We are here today because we are united in our will to strengthen the United Nations ability to play an effective role in helping societies address the complex issues of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. I hope that today's discussion can lead to a renewed determination to provide those peacekeeping operations that are supporting these tasks with the mandates and resources they need. I will briefly address some of the larger issues concerning this process, but I urge the Council to review carefully my report, which covers the challenges in this area more broadly.

If peacekeeping operations are to support DDR processes efficiently, it is essential that the provisions for DDR be integrated into any peace agreement that is reached. My report before the Council suggests that, where feasible, arrangements for the disposal of arms and ammunition should be decided as part of peace negotiations, so that questions of how to dispose of the collected arms and ammunition do not subsequently become a stumbling block.

In addition, it is clear that an operation aimed at addressing the issue of demobilization may require a considerable deterrent capacity, which should be provided early in its deployment.

It is also often essential that arms issues be considered in a regional context. Prerequisites for a

successful regional approach include bilateral decisions to share intelligence and information, cooperation by relevant regional organizations and continued support from the Security Council.

Responding to arms trafficking may also require a focus on financial flows, including information on where faction leaders are obtaining funds, where they are holding them and how they are spending them.

While primary responsibility for reintegration falls outside peacekeeping, I believe that peacekeeping operations can nonetheless play a key role in this important element of post-conflict reconstruction. In particular, peacekeeping operations can help ensure that all factions view the political process as one in which they can reasonably hope to compete, and that it provides a fair and legitimate alternative to violence.

In order to succeed in confronting this key challenge, however, we need to extend the range of tools available to peacekeeping operations. We need, in particular, to continue and strengthen our special focus on the needs of child soldiers. That means following up our most recent discussions to include in two United Nations operations, in Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a child protection adviser who can identify child-related concerns in the planning, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration phases.

We also need to see a more flexible approach by the Security Council to the use of assessed funding for critical elements of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration so that the process can go ahead, even while funding through voluntary sources is being mobilized. These elements include the destruction of weapons, the provision of seed money for quick-impact projects and measures for child soldiers, including girl soldiers.

Finally, we need to improve our ability to locate experienced disarmament experts and trainers for service within peacekeeping operations in the field. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has worked over the past year to develop training materials in this area for the use of Member States, and will continue these efforts.

Today's peacekeeping operations engage a wide spectrum of partners within the United Nations system, including the World Bank, in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities. More and more, however, they also need to look beyond the United Nations system. Regional organizations and international and local non-governmental organizations can contribute to disarmament and demobilization, and, as we have seen recently in Kosovo, may assist in rebuilding the social and political infrastructure that permits reintegration.

Allow me to conclude by urging the Council to view disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes as only one part of the multifaceted approach necessary if we are to succeed in peacekeeping in the twenty-first century.

We must also renew our efforts in the political sphere, where we can do more to channel differences peacefully through the rule of law; in the military and security sphere, where we can do more to help armed factions transform themselves into political civilian organizations; in the humanitarian sphere, where we can do more to alleviate the suffering of civilians as the first victims of war and the last beneficiaries of peace; and in the socio-economic sphere, where we can do more to link post-conflict reconstruction with assistance for lasting development.

Only within such a broad framework can the international community make a meaningful contribution to the success of this crucial element of post-conflict peace-building.

Mr. Shen Guofang (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): First of all, Mr. President, I would like to thank you and the rest of the delegation of Bangladesh for holding this meeting on this important issue and to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General for his statement. Our thanks go also to the delegation of Malaysia for its efforts in enhancing the Security Council's awareness of the issue of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants in a peacekeeping environment.

In recent years, facts and experiences have shown that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process has become an increasingly important component of United Nations peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building activities; in particular, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers has drawn wide attention. Current United Nations peacekeeping activities in Kosovo, East Timor, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and other places have all to varying degrees involved the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants; this highlights the importance and relevance of our discussion in the Security Council today.

We thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and informative report on this issue and wish to take this opportunity to make some preliminary comments.

First, the Security Council, which bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, should attach due importance to the matter of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and should provide policy guidance for work in this field. We endorse the view that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration should be included in relevant peace agreements from the very beginning, with overall planning that takes into account the specifics of each conflict, clearly defines the responsibilities of the parties concerned and of the United Nations, and identifies the sources of the financial resources needed. In this regard, because this process involves political, economic, military, social and other factors, the United Nations should carefully listen to and fully respect the opinions of all parties involved, especially those of the Governments concerned, and should seek their support and cooperation, so as to create a basis for the smooth implementation of the programmes.

Secondly, without a relatively secure and stable environment, it is impossible for the United Nations to carry out disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in coordination with the countries and parties concerned. Without guaranteed safety, ex-combatants will not voluntarily give up their weapons, and a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process will therefore be out of the question. Therefore, the parties to a conflict should demonstrate political will for this process and should abide by agreed ceasefires in earnest. At the same time, United Nations peacekeeping operations should be put in place as soon as possible, to help stabilize the situation on the ground. The current peacekeeping operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is at such a critical stage, and needs a concerted effort by all parties to the conflict and by the United Nations. Otherwise, there will be no prospect of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, and the peace agreement cannot possibly be fully implemented.

Thirdly, when carrying out disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, the international community, including the United Nations, must maintain an impartial and objective attitude and must enable all former combatants to be fully and thoroughly transformed into civilians or to be incorporated into regular national forces in accordance with the relevant peace agreements. The existence of illegal armed forces in any form cannot be allowed, lest there be a resurgence of destabilizing factors. To take the case of Kosovo, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) has been in place for several months, but the situation remains turbulent and volatile, with continued and constant violence. Therefore, the Security Council should follow closely the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process in Kosovo and should sum up past experience and lessons learned. That would enhance our in-depth understanding of what is being discussed here today.

Fourthly, illicit arms flows have more often than not made effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations very difficult to carry out or have obliterated their achievements. The parties concerned should therefore control such flows. And more important, the Security Council's existing mechanisms for arms embargoes should be strictly implemented. The series of guidelines on the collection and disposal of arms and the demobilization and rehabilitation of ex-combatants adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in April 1999 should be abided by and implemented, and should be considered as a basis for future studies on this question by relevant United Nations bodies.

Fifthly, the issue of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is very complicated, involving different fields and sectors. We endorse the proposal made by the Secretary-General in his report that coordination and cooperation among relevant agencies should be strengthened. The issue of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is not only something for the Security Council to discuss from the perspective of maintaining security and peace; it also demands participation and coordinated action by all relevant United Nations bodies and the exchange of information and communication among them. In this regard, guaranteed sufficient resources are critical. We call on the international community and relevant United Nations agencies to provide the necessary contributions and appropriations for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in a peacekeeping environment. We believe that serious consideration should be accorded the proposal in the report of the Secretary-General that the coordination of voluntary and assessed funding should be enhanced in providing financial support.

In his report, the Secretary-General puts forward many concrete proposals that require full study by the Security Council and other relevant bodies. We hope that today's discussions will be able to benefit the Security Council and other relevant agencies in their review of past experiences and lessons and in improving the

disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes in current United Nations peacekeeping or post-conflict peace-building operations and those to be authorized in the future. The Chinese delegation supports the draft presidential statement to be adopted.

As observed in the presidential statement, the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, which involves economic, social and other aspects, must be addressed comprehensively. Here, I would like to reiterate that the international community should step up its long-term assistance for development to countries concerned, and to African countries in particular, in order to help develop their economies and root out the underlying causes of conflicts. Only by so doing can the achievements of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration be consolidated.

Mr. Gatilov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation is grateful to the Secretary-General for the comprehensive report on United Nations peacekeeping operations in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of former parties to armed conflicts. We are also grateful to him for the statement he made in the Council today.

We agree with the main conclusion of the report that this process is of vital importance for the long-term settlement of conflicts, and also with the idea that the key to the success of a peaceful settlement is the political will of the parties to the conflict. In view of this, Russia supports the further enhancement of the United Nations role in carrying out tasks relating to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

The Russian Federation believes that the attainment of these goals requires a comprehensive approach to the coordination of actions by United Nations bodies. We believe that during the period of post-conflict peace-building a leading role should be played by the Economic and Social Council, the specialized agencies and the United Nations programmes. However, since disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is a cross-cutting issue, and since it is a job that can be carried out at both the peacekeeping and peace-building stages, we deem it justified, in cases where the situation warrants, for the Security Council to establish follow-on missions whose mandates could include DDR tasks. It is very important here to be extremely precise about defining these tasks in the mandates of the operations and to determine the functions of the organs participating in the solution.

Experience has shown that the effectiveness of the United Nations efforts in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration depends directly on the extent to which they command the support of the parties directly involved in the conflict. Attempts to use force to resolve problems — as was the case with Somalia, for example — usually do not work. In this connection, we agree with the Secretary-General's view that the best way to ensure a legal basis for the DDR process is to include appropriate provisions in the ceasefire agreements; and when these agreements are under negotiation, it would be desirable to bring in international experts at the early stages of the talks.

Clearly, an important factor for the success of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration — and in everything that is related to peacekeeping — is learning from past experience, including negative experience. Methods for carrying out disarmament, demobilization and reintegration that have proved to work in practice, including those aspects of processes that relate to specific problems arising from the involvement of women and children in armed conflicts, should be a subject of study during the training of national peacekeeping personnel.

However, good decisions very often remain mere words on paper and are not properly implemented. A graphic illustration of this was the collapse of the peace process in Angola, where the disarmament of UNITA — and this was the fault of that organization's leadership — was basically a fiction. There are also serious questions as to how the demilitarization of the Kosovo Liberation Army took place in Kosovo.

Carrying out the tasks under discussion today means, as a rule, that major and often costly projects must be initiated, and a comprehensive approach and the coordinated efforts of the international community are required. We welcome the increasingly active involvement of the World Bank in providing technical and financial support for DDR processes. Enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations efforts in this area would be helped by expanding dialogue with international monetary institutions that, because of their experience and resources, could make a key contribution to carrying out DDR programmes.

The job of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is intrinsically linked to the problem of the rampant spread of small arms and light weapons, primarily in crisis areas. Russia is interested in intensifying the struggle against the illegal spread of

conventional weapons, particularly in conflict areas. Enhancing the effectiveness of Security Council arms embargoes is on the agenda now. As the experience of Angola and a number of other conflicts has shown, a porous embargo can only increase military confrontation between the parties to the conflict and subvert the Security Council's authority and that of the United Nations as a whole.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm that Russia fully recognizes its responsibility as a permanent member of the Security Council and will continue to make an active and practical contribution to United Nations peacekeeping activities in all of their aspects, including the questions that are under discussion today in the Security Council.

Ms. Soderberg (United States of America): I applaud you, Mr. President, for holding this meeting today, and we are particularly pleased by the presence of the Secretary-General. The key role of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) is one that is far too often overlooked. Yet it is an essential element to many post-conflict peace-building efforts. Today's meeting will help ensure that we all stay engaged in the effort to build peace — not just stop war.

Today's meeting builds on our open debate last July under the presidency of Malaysia. We thank Ambassador Hasmy and the delegation of Malaysia once again for their continuing effort to focus the Council's attention on these issues. Today's meeting will help the Council remain engaged on this important matter, and I hope that we take up the Secretary-General's call this morning to address the issue with renewed determination.

When peace agreements are successfully reached, it is essential that steps be taken to promote the transition of war-torn societies from conflict to normalcy. Key to this transition is the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of the ex-combatants into the fabric of civil society. The Secretary-General's report of 11 February underscores this point.

As the Secretary-General recommends in that report, the ability of future peacekeeping operations to advance disarmament, demobilization and reintegration goals can be enhanced in several ways. These include explicit reference to DDR programmes in peace agreements; ensuring adequate technical and financial support for such activities in all operations; and improving institutional coordination among the bodies of the international community that address these needs.

It is essential that the Council underscore the point that successful DDR activities depend upon the political will of the parties involved to commit themselves to peace. The success of such activities requires the cooperation of entire populations, former combatants and civilians.

The international community can support this process, but it cannot provide the will required to bring it to a successful conclusion. This point is being made very clearly in Sierra Leone, where the commitment to the peace agreement of the Revolutionary United Front, and especially of its leader Foday Sankoh, remains in doubt. One key indicator of the problem is the low number and quality of weapons that have been turned in thus far under the DDR programme currently under way in Sierra Leone. Moreover, far too few combatants have presented themselves for disarmament and demobilization. Similarly, the disturbing outbreak of violence in the Congo discussed yesterday by this Council gives weight to the point that the international community cannot fulfil its obligations if the parties fail to meet their own commitments.

With regard to disarmament, surplus small arms and light weapons in post-conflict situations all too often fuel renewed fighting and banditry. Effective disposal — and preferably destruction — of small arms, light weapons and ammunition must be part of any peace process.

In addition, the Council must be prepared to consider measures to limit the flow of small arms and other weapons into DDR zones, including sanctions, if necessary and appropriate. As Ambassador Fowler has so ably demonstrated, more effective enforcement of existing sanctions can also play a role, including in the prevention of new arms flows into a region. The United States looks forward to participating in next year's United Nations conference here in New York on illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

The goal of demobilization activities is to remove ex-combatants from military organizations and structures as quickly as possible — to free these populations to return to lives as productive citizens and to contribute to the development of their societies. To advance demobilization, sufficient resources and political support must be provided to peacekeeping operations. As the Secretary-General correctly notes, a mission that has been perceived as strong from its beginning is far less likely to be tested than one that is perceived as vulnerable or ineffective.

We see much reintegration work as distinct from traditional peacekeeping activities of disarmament and demobilization. Disarmament and demobilization are under the purview of the Security Council and often part of peacekeeping operations, although implementation of these activities has at times been shared by humanitarian agencies. Reintegration, however, must be viewed as a post-conflict peace-building or development activity. The Secretary-General's report notes the complexity of reintegration activities and the number of organizations and actors that can contribute to their success. We welcome improved coordination among implementing agencies — including World Bank support for reintegration in Sierra Leone — and note the need for further progress. We also concur with the Secretary-General that involving commercial interests in peace efforts can support the processes and encourage further exploration in this area.

We agree with the Secretary-General that there can be problems in identifying adequate funding for DDR activities and, with the implosion of societies that is occurring in today's conflicts, it is critical that we strike the right balance between assessed and voluntary contributions to address these issues.

The Secretary-General's report highlights the special needs of child soldiers during all phases of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, including the special needs of girl soldiers due to their roles as fighters, messengers, spies, labourers and sexual slaves. We applaud the efforts of the United Nations Children's Fund and others to meet these critical needs in existing operations and their plans to do so in future DDR programmes. I am happy to note also the consensus agreement reached in January on the addition of an optional protocol on involvement of children in armed conflict to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. By addressing forced recruitment and the conduct of armed rebels, this agreement strikes at the heart of the problem of child soldiers.

In discussing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, we often overlook the special needs of women ex-combatants. As correctly underlined in the Secretary-General's report, female ex-combatants and their children are especially vulnerable in post-conflict situations. DDR plans should seek to assist women and girls who have suffered sexual abuse, have been forced to participate in violence or have had to bear children for their victimizers, and who may risk rejection by their communities. Sustainable reintegration of former combatants is a prerequisite to the prevention of future conflicts, and women are often excluded from this process. In a broader context, we rarely consider the powerful role women can play in reintegration, peace-building and conflict resolution. Women's involvement as leaders, mediators and teachers can have a critical impact on the success of reintegration efforts and their involvement is essential for maintaining peace and security.

In conclusion, the Council's task of maintaining international peace and security requires that we pay close attention to the important issues we discuss here today. As the United Nations develops methods and means to address post-conflict peace-building requirements, our ability to undertake successful and complete DDR programmes will grow. I commend you, Mr. President, and our other colleagues who have taken the lead on this issue. The United States looks forward to working together to put into practice the ideas and plans we discuss here today.

Mr. Cappagli (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me first of all to express my thanks to your delegation, Mr. President, for the initiative of convening this debate. In particular, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his substantive participation and for his very comprehensive report on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants.

Eight months ago, we expressed our profound concern that, in a number of conflicts, the various parties or factions continued to engage in armed struggle, despite the fact that peace agreements had been concluded by the warring parties and despite the presence in the field of United Nations peacekeeping operations. We continue to be troubled by this situation.

Likewise, on that occasion we acknowledged that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants should be seen not as isolated elements, but as a continuous process involving wide-ranging efforts to secure peace, stability and development.

There can be no doubt that the basis for the DDR process is the political resolve of the parties concerned, which requires the assistance of the international community. This political will must be embodied in a peace agreement that meticulously outlines the process. Such an agreement would provide operations with a clear mandate and facilitate contributions by the international community of the necessary experts and resources.

We should not lose sight of the fact that the disarmament activities of peacekeeping operations can profit from the measures undertaken by Member States to combat illicit trafficking in arms. For its part, demobilization is emerging as the decisive factor in ensuring the continuity of the process. Hence, the importance of ensuring that this phase be completed as quickly as possible and give way to the reintegration phase with a view to establishing the right political and social environment.

I need hardly emphasize that the needs of children in conflict zones must be addressed and that their rights should be an explicit priority in the processes aimed at establishing and fostering peace and resolving conflicts. And finally, there is no doubt that proper coordination of efforts among the various actors involved and an ample supply of personnel and resources — particularly financial resources — are indispensable if the processes of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants are to be successful.

It is especially appropriate to address the issue of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants in the context of peacekeeping, because these activities represent the first step — indeed, perhaps the key step — towards preventing a recurrence of conflict, securing lasting peace and creating conditions conducive to sustainable development. The challenge is immense, but the task is so important and the human and financial costs of conflict are so great that we must do all in our power to help peoples escape from recurrent cycles of violence.

We are moving in the right direction. Let us spare no effort. Let us move forward with determination. Success is within our reach.

Mrs. Ashipala-Musavyi (Namibia): We join others in expressing our thanks and appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report. We also welcome the introductory remarks that he made this morning, which, in our view, provide food for further thought. In our view, the Secretary-General's report on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) is very timely. It comes at a very crucial time, when we are confronted with complex conflict situations whose successful resolution may well depend on how disarmament, demobilization and reintegration are handled.

The report of the Secretary-General is comprehensive and practical and we are of the view that it only remains for all of us to study the recommendations contained therein, as well as to take into account the additional views which have been and will be made by our colleagues this morning, so as to see how we can work them into United Nations peacekeeping operations. For this reason, my remarks will be very brief.

Let me also mention that an unsuccessful DDR programme results in the recurrence of conflict, bringing with it a complete breakdown of governing institutions, the destruction of physical infrastructure, further displacement of populations and subsequent massive human suffering. Hence, in our view, DDR is an important and indispensable part of peacekeeping and peace-building.

The phenomenon of grinding, widespread poverty in the midst of plenty should touch the conscience and the political will of the international community. The conflict-stricken countries, particularly those in Africa, cannot emerge from their protracted civil conflicts without generous assistance from the international community to enable them to lay the foundations for durable peace and recovery and to avoid a relapse into conflict.

It is also important to promote reconciliation, engage civil society and ensure the total commitment of parties to a peaceful resolution of conflict. Indeed, as has been mentioned by colleagues who spoke before me, the international community can only assist; the parties must be willing to disarm and committed to doing so. However, in situations where the causes of a conflict have an external dimension, it is important that pressure be brought to bear by all involved, directly or indirectly, for the parties to disarm. More importantly, in our view, faction leaders should be held accountable for the disarmament and demobilization of their combatants.

Although every situation has its unique attributes, DDR is a process whose parts cannot be treated in isolation. All components have to be addressed, for they complement one another. In approving peacekeeping operations, therefore, clear mandates have to be given, with a clear division of responsibilities among the various United Nations organizations.

The rehabilitation and detraumatization of the victims of conflict, especially child soldiers, have been extensively elaborated in the Secretary-General's report, and rightly so. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers should be given priority

attention. The situation of the girl child in particular has to be taken into account. We also think that it would help enormously if the situation of children and child soldiers were taken seriously, addressed from the very beginning and included in the negotiation of peace agreements. In this regard, we greatly welcome the inclusion of a child protection adviser in United Nations operations in Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Women, too, should be involved in DDR programmes, for they are affected in a special way by conflict and are often left to fend for themselves.

In this context, we believe that the recommendations contained in the Beijing Platform for Action on women in armed conflict can serve to provide valuable input. Similarly, in our view, the Division for the Advancement of Women has an important role to play here.

Demining operations, the reconstitution of State structures and the restoration of industrial and agricultural production are necessary for the realization of the DDR process, especially during the reintegration process. In our view, this is where international assistance is crucial.

Finally, we must, indeed, draw on lessons learned from other United Nations operations, be they positive or negative. In conclusion, I should like to say that we support the draft presidential statement.

Mr. Hasmy (Malaysia): I should like to express my appreciation to you, Mr. President, for convening this open meeting of the Council on this important subject. I should also like to thank the Secretary-General for the very important statement which he has just made and for his report on the role of the United Nations in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants in a peacekeeping environment. Both the Secretary-General's statement and his comprehensive and most informative report on the subject have provided us with an extremely useful basis for in-depth consideration of this subject.

It is, indeed, encouraging to note that considerable progress has been made since we last debated this issue in July last year, during Malaysia's presidency of the Council. I believe that the report relating to principles and guidelines on DDR, prepared by the Lessons Learned Unit last year, is now ready to be issued to all Member States. We believe that the report, when released, will contribute enormously to the more effective implementation of DDR on the ground.

Since the late 1980s, we have learned that peacekeeping operations cannot be mounted in isolation. Experience tells us that DDR has to be a part of the overall effort in making a peace process a success. It provides a link from cessation of hostilities to sustainable peace by incorporating political, security, economic and social objectives into the process. DDR is a long-term programme which continues until all ex-combatants are fully reintegrated into the mainstream of society at all levels. It is a holistic process, involving many actors and requiring the full cooperation of society. It is therefore important that all parties to the conflict be made fully aware of the process involved and have the political will to undertake it.

As rightly pointed out in the Secretary-General's report, DDR must be viewed not as a simple sequence of events, but rather as a continuous process whose elements overlap with one another and are mutually supportive. The success of the process is dependent on the success of each of its steps. Clearly, the DDR process must begin with the first step — namely, disarmament — which, of course, can be achieved only on the basis of a ceasefire in the context of a peace agreement. The effective disarmament of ex-combatants represents an important indicator of progress towards post-conflict peace-building and the normalization of a conflict situation. Demobilization, which follows, is possible only when there is some level of disarmament, and its success can be achieved only when there is effective rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-combatants into society. Reintegration of ex-combatants — the third stage — can be effectively carried out only in the context of a comprehensive political settlement, in which national reconciliation will obviously have to play a major part.

These are important steps, but we also agree with the view that to ensure the final success of the process, elements of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration should also be integrated not only in peacekeeping mandates but also in peace agreements.

In a number of conflicts, armed fighting among various factions continues despite the conclusion of peace agreements and the presence of United Nations peacekeeping missions on the ground. A major factor contributing to such a situation has been the continued availability of large amounts of armaments, in particular small arms and light weapons. The proliferation of these weapons in a climate of continuing insecurity in a post-conflict situation is clearly not conducive to the speedy return of peace and certainly dampens efforts at

promoting social and economic development. In this regard, if disarmament is to be undertaken effectively, it may be necessary to impose a regional mechanism to strictly monitor an arms embargo.

Equally important in this exercise is the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers. While Governments could be held accountable for the use of children as soldiers, it is often difficult to induce change in rebel groups and to have them admit to the use of children. It is shocking to learn that as many as 300,000 children under the age of 18 are currently participating in armed conflicts around the world. Even more alarming is the fact that this trend of involving children in armed conflict is on the increase. Until and unless this issue is seriously addressed, children may not only be exposed to grave physical risks when they participate in armed conflict but also suffer severe long-term psychological consequences. In this context, I should like to pay special tribute to the important work and enormous contribution of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Mr. Olara Otunnu.

It is imperative that the special case of child soldiers be included in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and that their special needs be addressed. In this regard, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations with expertise in the field can make important contributions in the effective implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration as they relate to children. We also feel that the role of women, as highlighted by the two women speakers before me, in respect of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration should also be recognized and appropriately reflected in future reports.

The education and training of peacekeepers on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration are important elements for the successful implementation of these activities in mission areas. In this regard, I would like to commend the United Nations Secretariat, in particular the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, for successfully coordinating the excellent work that has been carried out by some Member States and organizations towards the drafting of a training programme and action plan on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. We hope that the training activities will have the support of as many Member States as possible, including international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

As in all United Nations programmes and activities, financing continues to be a problem in the effective implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. While little or no support can be expected at the local level, for obvious reasons, the generous support of the international community is critical for the effective implementation of DDR programmes. There is clearly a need for greater coordination in the area of funding, both assessed and voluntary, for more effective implementation of these programmes. We therefore urge the various United Nations organs and bodies to work out arrangements that would satisfy the requirements of specific disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in different post-conflict situations in the context of the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the countries concerned.

It is clear that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration has become an important, indeed, indispensable component of all contemporary peacekeeping operations which I believe should be addressed by the Council on an ongoing basis. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process is certainly not an end in itself but must be seen as an objective that will help restore normalcy and make a contribution to lasting peace. My delegation believes that all ex-combatants should be reintegrated, except persons responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Because it may not always be possible to prosecute the perpetrators immediately after the conflict, statutory limitations should not apply in cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Bringing the perpetrators to justice remains an essential element of national reconciliation, which provides an indispensable basis for a durable peace.

Given the importance of the subject in the context of contemporary peacekeeping operations, my delegation urges the Council to continue to address this issue on a regular basis and in this regard looks forward to a further report from the Secretary-General in the future, particularly as regards the implementation of DDR training programmes. It is hoped that the report will also address the important issue of financing in greater depth, as it remains a critical element for the success of the programme.

In conclusion, my delegation fully supports the draft statement that we will be adopting at the end of this meeting.

Mr. Harrison (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom welcomes the Secretary-General's report. It provides a useful general overview of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) issues in the peacekeeping context, and it puts forward some interesting proposals. I should also like to thank the Secretary-General for his very useful introduction to today's debate.

I will not make a detailed statement on this subject today. The Permanent Representative of Portugal will be making a statement on behalf of the European Union later in this debate which comprehensively reflects the United Kingdom's views on this subject.

I would, however, like to highlight two key issues from the United Kingdom's recent experience of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in Sierra Leone. The first is the importance of adequate resources. As the Secretary-General observes, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes need to be placed on a firmer financial footing. The World Bank has struggled to persuade donors to contribute to its Trust Fund for Sierra Leone. Unless further substantial contributions are received, key initial disarmament and demobilization activities in Sierra Leone will not be carried out. This will jeopardize not only the success of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), but also the peace process as a whole.

We agree with the Secretary-General that further thought must be given to ensuring reliable funding for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. We would suggest that the Secretary-General might explore a range of possible financing options with interested Member States, the World Bank and others, and make further recommendations on this subject.

The second point I wish to highlight is the need for proper coordination of all players involved in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. They invariably involve a number of actors from different organizations. In Sierra Leone, the lack of effective coordination between key players has resulted in confusion, delays and misunderstandings. We would therefore encourage the United Nations to provide a coordinating framework wherever this is possible.

Mr. Ben Mustapha (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, I should like to thank you for having convened this important meeting of the Security Council devoted to the role of the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants in the context of peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building activities, and in particular to the quest for ways and means of ensuring that the process helps to enhance the effectiveness of the activities involved in peacekeeping and peace-building. I also thank the Secretary-General for the important introductory statement he made this morning.

The renewed consideration of this matter by the Security Council in the context of its prerogatives in the area of the maintenance of international peace and security attests to the concern that this body rightly feels for this threefold process, which is now a key dimension of peacekeeping — namely, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of those who until recently were fighting on opposite sides in an armed conflict.

As the Secretary-General rightly points out in his exhaustive and detailed report to the Security Council on this issue, this tripartite process contributes decidedly to consolidating the foundations of peace and stability because it helps reinforce confidence among former belligerents, stabilizes situations after conflicts and facilitates the transition of a society from conflict to normalcy and development.

The international community has already acquired considerable experience in this area in the context of United Nations peacekeeping operations, and in particular in the course of the last decade. That experience offers us abundant lessons that we can apply to future activities. At the present stage, we need to refine, consolidate and build on that experience. In this connection, it seems to us that the following aspects are of particular importance.

First, the systematic inclusion of clauses regarding the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants in any peace agreement bringing a conflict to an end would be productive in helping ensure that the agreement contained a number of parameters for the process, which must be carried out with the political commitment of the parties.

Secondly, it seems to us that having the United Nations coordinate all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities should be the focus of sustained attention, given the interlinkage, interdependence and complementarity relating to the disarmament process in the overall peacekeeping and peace-building environment.

Thirdly, we consider that substantial and sustained support from the international community is a necessity, in particular with regard to the requisite skills and financial resources. There is definitely a role to be played here by donors and international financial institutions.

Finally, the international community should pay constant attention to the question of child soldiers, whose recruitment has become a systematic and sadly disquieting phenomenon in a number of armed conflicts, in defiance of universal norms and to the detriment to these children's dignity, mental stability and psychological well-being.

The draft statement that the President will be reading out shortly on behalf of the Council seems to us to reflect all of these concerns. It is for this reason that we support it unreservedly.

Mr. Hamer (Netherlands): I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing today's important meeting on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process. I would also like to thank the delegation of Malaysia, which first took the initiative to place this subject on our agenda.

My delegation is grateful to the Secretary-General for introducing his comprehensive and thoughtful report. We welcome in particular the attention devoted in his report and in his introductory statement to the problem of child soldiers, including girl soldiers.

The representative of Portugal will make an exhaustive statement on today's very important agenda item on behalf of the European Union and 15 other like-minded European countries. I fully associate myself with that statement, and I will therefore limit myself to some brief remarks on confidence-building and commitment in the framework of DDR programmes.

First, on the subject of confidence-building, peacekeeping operations are themselves a major source of confidence-building. The long-term purpose of DDR programmes is to enhance political stability, peace and security. For DDR programmes to succeed, however, there needs to be at least a degree of political stability and security to begin with — that is, in the disarmament phase. It is in that phase that peacekeeping operations in themselves contribute to confidence-building.

Secondly, for the purpose of confidence-building it is vital that all parties, including armed civilians, should be targeted by the disarmament efforts, and that all arms collected should be destroyed. If the disarmament effort is limited and fails to target all, the results may well be an illicit arms trade, violence and crime. Obviously, this would undermine confidence in the process. Neighbouring countries may have to be involved in disarmament processes as well, as that can help curb cross-border arms trading and crime.

Next, on the subject of commitment, the all-important condition for DDR programmes to be successful evidently is the full political commitment of all warring parties to the peace process. There are three aspects of commitment that I would like to highlight. First, ex-combatants should be committed to the planning and management of DDR programmes, especially programmes for re-integration and training. There is evidence that the actual involvement of ex-combatants in such programmes has a positive impact, both in terms of cost control and in the reduction of political tension.

Secondly, the commitment of civil society to DDR programmes creates a sense of ownership in the implementation of disarmament and reintegration. Full information on the programme and its purposes will clearly contribute to this sense of commitment.

Thirdly, the international community needs to be committed to the implementation of DDR programmes, usually including generous financial support. Providing for the effective coordination of the programmes is another important way the international community can contribute. My delegation welcomes the emphasis placed on this aspect of coordination by the Secretary-General in his report.

Finally, in the presidential statement on small arms of 24 September 1999 the Council requested the Secretary-General to develop a reference manual, for use in the field, on ecologically safe methods of weapons destruction. The Council also invited Member States to facilitate the preparation of such a manual. The Netherlands attaches great importance to post-conflict ecologically sound weapons destruction. In this context, I am pleased to inform the Council that the Netherlands has decided to make a substantial contribution towards the preparation of such a field manual on weapons destruction.

Mr. Ward (Jamaica): My delegation wishes to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this debate to discuss the issue of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), which constitute key elements in the

transition to sustainable peace and development in post-conflict societies.

We are also grateful to the Secretary-General for his report and for his statement to the Council today. He has underscored the need to strengthen the role of peacekeeping operations in helping create the appropriate environment for successful disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

My delegation believes that today's discussion offers an important opportunity for the Council to reassess the outcome of DDR efforts that have been incorporated into relevant peacekeeping arrangements, with a view to ensuring that lessons learned in the past are not overlooked in future operations.

We wish to recall that with conducive conditions, DDR programmes can effectively achieve their objectives for effective post-conflict peace-building. In this regard, the United Nations can be proud of its successes in El Salvador, Guatemala, Mozambique and, more recently, the Central African Republic. These cases clearly demonstrate the capacity of the United Nations to achieve effective reintegration of ex-combatants when appropriate steps are taken to include clear and well-defined DDR programmes in peacekeeping operations.

In an effort to expand this record of successes, it is clear that a number of crucial elements must be taken into account. First, DDR must be seen as an integrated process, with each activity being given sufficient attention by the international community. There is ample evidence to suggest, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's report, that DDR must be addressed comprehensively and that adequate political, financial and material support for each phase of the process is essential in ensuring a peaceful transition.

Secondly, in addition to the swift provision of ample resources, the strong political will of the parties involved and of the international community to the DDR process are indispensable. The critical and complex task of rehabilitation and reconstruction must be approached from this perspective and be viewed as an inclusive process, involving the full cooperation of the civilian population, non-governmental organizations, regional bodies, international financial institutions and, particularly, private businesses.

Thirdly, among the most important criteria for the success of any DDR process is the need to ensure that peacekeeping operations continue to be clearly defined and that the impartiality, legitimacy, political momentum and resources they provide to the DDR process be fully sustained. A clear definition of DDR tasks must be included with peace agreements with the consent of the parties, with such tasks being carefully defined at the outset of peace negotiations to ensure a secure and safe environment for ex-combatants.

Fourthly, the Council must monitor closely current DDR programmes. Only last week, the Council was apprised of the slow development of DDR in Sierra Leone and the low quantity of weapons being surrendered by armed groups. The Security Council must continue to send a strong message to armed groups that their cooperation in these endeavours is critical to the restoration of sustainable peace and long-term economic development.

There are several issues identified in the Secretary-General's report which deserve special mention.

Adequate and timely funding of the DDR process is critical to ensuring its success. The practice of financing demobilization and reintegration exercises from voluntary funding continues to present a serious resource problem and my delegation is inclined to support the provision of funding, within the assessed budget of a peacekeeping operation, to facilitate the process.

Addressing the special needs of child soldiers, including girl soldiers, has important long-term implications for social and economic rehabilitation. Providing appropriate services for the security, health, education and psychological treatment of disarmed child soldiers, as well as refugees and other displaced persons, should constitute a major element of any reintegration process.

My delegation concurs with the Secretary-General's recommendation that child protection officers should be included in the staffing and mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations and we are pleased at the efforts to include within all operations personnel with appropriate training in international humanitarian and human rights law, including child and gender-related provisions.

The linkage between DDR and the flow of arms into conflict areas continues to be an area of concern. As recent experiences clearly show, DDR cannot be effective if arms continue to flow into conflict areas. We support

the need for an enhanced role of the Security Council in curbing the illicit flow of arms, including small arms, through the imposition of arms embargoes, where appropriate, and coordination with regional bodies and other relevant actors in addressing the illicit flow of arms and their collection and destruction. The international community must ensure that priority attention is given to addressing the economic dimensions of arms flows and that appropriate measures are taken in this regard.

Support for long-term economic reconstruction and rehabilitation must also be given full attention. This is a critical element in fostering an appropriate environment for the full reintegration of ex-combatants. Commitment to the goals of peace and security is meaningless without a plan to foster economic growth and sustainable development. The search for peace and development requires efforts well beyond the withdrawal of peacekeeping missions, and strengthening the capacities of societies emerging from conflicts must be placed at the centre of sustainable peace. We therefore support the notion of the deployment of follow-on missions to help support advances made in securing durable peace and development.

My delegation supports the adoption of the presidential statement, which focuses the attention of the international community on the importance of the DDR process in consolidating peace and security in countries emerging from conflict.

Mr. Ouane (Mali) (*spoke in French*): Today, the Security Council is discussing the important issue of maintaining peace and security and post-conflict peace-building. The Secretary-General has laid a firm foundation for this debate by submitting a comprehensive report, entitled "The role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration", for which we thank him. In this regard, I would like to make a few brief comments.

First, establishing a climate of trust among the various sectors of society in a country emerging from armed conflict is the fundamental prerequisite for achieving lasting peace. In this connection, the definition of an overall framework of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), accompanied by a timetable and technical and financial means for its implementation, is essential. The central role of the United Nations in all phases of the process also constitutes an element of guarantee and a token of impartiality and legitimacy.

However, as the Secretary-General points out, in order to be effective, United Nations intervention must be part of the framework of an agreement or a commitment between the various parties. In this respect, the Secretary-General's proposal to make disarmament, demobilization and reintegration a component of the mandates of peacekeeping operations deserves the full support of Member States.

We also believe that, if United Nations activity is to yield tangible results, demilitarization expertise and adequate financial resources need to be mobilized at all stages of the process. In the same context, we should stress the importance of the role of the United Nations Special Representative in terms of the coordination of all DDR activities in cooperation with the various parties, United Nations institutions and the bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies. Similarly, it seems to us that experience acquired in former or current peacekeeping operations should serve as a catalyst for future United Nations activity.

Secondly, the cooperation of regional organizations is necessary in the struggle against the flow of and trade in arms. Regional initiatives on the proliferation of light weapons in particular, such as the moratorium declared by the West African States, undoubtedly help create more effective conditions for controlling such weapons. Given their reach and scope, these initiatives should be supported technically and financially.

Thirdly, the reintegration of ex-combatants into civil society is often a difficult undertaking that deserves special attention. The consolidation of the reintegration process requires taking into account the basic economic needs of ex-combatants, such as education, vocational training and the financing of their resettlement.

In Mali, this type of preventive diplomacy has been very successful, following the settlement of the conflict that beset the northern part of the country in the early 1990s. Indeed, peace-building and economic and social development efforts have involved the progressive integration of numbers of ex-combatants into the armed and security forces of Mali and the State public services, as well as individual or group financing of small development projects in the northern part of the country. The effort to build peace and to revive economic and social activity in post-conflict situations are therefore just as important as those to prevent or settle conflicts.

Fourthly, the phenomenon of child soldiers needs special attention. We bear a heavy responsibility with respect to this unfortunate phenomenon, which is unacceptable and which must be ended. In that connection, let me pay high tribute to the dynamic, intelligent and determined efforts of Mr. Olara Otunnu; we support him entirely. In our view, we need international programmes to provide long-term support and assistance for child soldiers and to strengthen the capacity of communities to offer such crucial long-term services.

There are a number of lessons to be learned with respect to the matter under discussion. First, it prompts us to tackle tough issues such as land management, decentralization, education, communication and the strengthening of civil society through the establishment and strengthening of States based on the rule of law. Secondly, even modest measures, when taken in good time, can have a significant positive impact and can offer the hope of averting crisis. Thirdly, through good coordination, the international community may be able to prevent the outbreak of war and create conditions conducive to economic development.

The transition from a society in conflict to economic and social development is a major challenge demanding great international solidarity. The international community should therefore support the process of consolidating peace, reconstruction and development, so that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration can meet with success.

Mr. Levitte (France) (*spoke in French*): Allow me first to thank you, Mr. President, for your initiative in organizing the resumption of a debate on this item that the Security Council began in July 1999 on the initiative of Malaysia. Today we can learn from the new light shed on this subject by the recent report of the Secretary-General. My delegation thanks the Secretary-General and congratulates him on his excellent report, which provides a good overview of the demands now being placed on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes in a peacekeeping context.

The representative of Portugal will soon make a statement on behalf of the European Union; clearly, France associates itself fully with that statement. I wish only to make a few brief comments at this stage.

Everyone agrees that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants is an indispensable part of the settlement of conflicts. But that task can succeed in the long term — and I stress "in the long term" — only if a number of conditions are met. First of all, disarmament and demobilization must come about through agreement among all belligerent parties. To impose it by force inevitably means a return to war. For if those bearing arms are given no guarantees, can they be expected to let themselves be disarmed without resistance? Therefore, agreements between belligerent parties — before peacekeeping operations are set up — must include specific provisions in this regard. As the Secretary-General stresses in his report, a lack of clarity on this point carries inherent risks and can have serious future consequences.

Secondly, in the three-part process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the third part is without doubt the most important. We must not confuse causes with symptoms: taking up arms is a way — a violent way — of responding to a situation such as underdevelopment, inequitable distribution of wealth, ethnic rivalry or political oppression. To permanently convince combatants to lay down their weapons and, more important, not to take them up again in the future, four guarantees are required: personal safety; equitable and effective political participation; genuine economic prospects for them to meet their needs and the needs of their families; and a social status as attractive as that of warrior, which they are being asked to renounce.

My next point is that the international community must speedily demonstrate its firm resolve to contribute to the success of these programmes, and in particular to create the climate of confidence that is indispensable for success. A lasting commitment by the parties to a conflict to keep their commitments depends on this.

We consider that there are three priority approaches in a strategy that must be comprehensive and long-term. I note that the Secretary-General has rightly stressed that any activities in this sphere must indeed be comprehensive and long-term.

The first approach relates to adapting the mandates of peacekeeping operations. When a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process is deemed necessary, relevant provisions must appear in the mission mandate. It is important to understand the importance, as stressed by the Secretary-General, of involving the United Nations at the earliest possible stage in the process established by a peace agreement.

Secondly, there must be better coordination on the ground among all actors, something that has been

mentioned by a number of other speakers. The mandates of peacekeeping operations that include a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration element must set out a clear division of labours and an effective allocation of responsibilities among all the organizations and all the actors involved in implementing the programme. During the peacekeeping phase, the special representative of the Secretary-General in the mission area should unequivocally assert his or her authority in this area and should understand his or her role as a coordinator.

The third area is that of financing, as rightly mentioned by a number of delegations; the representative of the United Kingdom, for example, spoke of the problems now being faced in Sierra Leone. The fact is that the lack of financial resources too often causes the failure of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, which cannot be completed because of this problem. It is particularly regrettable that these tasks — which no one doubts are decisive for effective peace-building — all too often depend on voluntary contributions, which by their very nature are unpredictable. There should be a more decisive joint effort so that, at least in the early stages, we can draw on the budgets of peacekeeping operations. The Secretary-General's initiatives regarding seed money for "quick impact projects" within the assessed budgets of peacekeeping operations deserve every encouragement.

The presidential statement that will be issued following this debate must reflect our ongoing, determined commitment to the success of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, particularly in a peacekeeping context. The report of the Secretary-General has helped us clearly to identify remaining obstacles and the objectives we should keep clearly in view. We fully support the presidential statement, and, as always, hope that its principles and recommendations will be implemented every time we deal with a case of this kind.

Mr. Fowler (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Canada warmly welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). We thank the Secretary-General for his hard work in producing this constructive in-depth analysis, which will go a long way towards helping Canada and other members understand this crucial aspect of peace-building.

This report gives a comprehensive account of many aspects of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration that are of very great concern to Canada. In particular, we appreciate the frankness with which the report describes shortcomings — past and present — of these programmes and we congratulate the Secretary-General for having clearly and convincingly turned these weak points into lessons that the Council can use in its work in post-conflict situations. We eagerly await the proposals that the Secretary-General will put before us in the future on this subject and we ask him to keep Council members abreast of future lessons learned by United Nations missions.

(spoke in English)

Canada has long worked to make disarmament, demobilization and reintegration an accepted part of the *lingua franca* of post-conflict peace-building. We are proud contributors to many of the United Nations missions that broke new ground in integrating disarmament, demobilization and reintegration mechanisms into the work of peacekeepers and we have financially supported the work of the United Nations Lessons Learned Unit on the subject. We have particularly emphasized the importance of turning lessons learned into practice and have benefited greatly from the wisdom gained in past missions, by ourselves and others, in instilling these lessons into peacekeeping training, both nationally and at the United Nations.

We are therefore extremely pleased to see from this report that not only has it become an essential component of peacekeeping training, but that there also now exists genuine will on the part of Members to build on the progress made and include within the practice of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration a number of provisions critical to ensuring human security. We note most specifically the inclusion in recent missions of personnel dedicated to international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, child and gender provisions, and child protection advisers tasked with giving special attention to war-affected children.

We fully support the Secretary-General's view on the importance of integrating disarmament, demobilization and reintegration elements from the inception of peace agreements and on the importance of coordination among peacekeeping operations and agencies and others with expertise in the implementation of these programmes. We also support this report's conclusion that a multidimensional approach to post-conflict peace-building is vital. To be successful, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration must constitute part of a network of activities that encourage confidence in the

future and give citizens, civilians and ex-combatants alike a stake in the continued stability of their country. This requires a commitment on the part of both the international community and the Government and people concerned to work together to improve governance, justice and human rights and to build the necessary political and physical infrastructure in support of this reform. Absent such a commitment, post-conflict peace-building processes too easily fall victim to the mistrust that causes conflict in the first place and that only grows with time.

Many of the issues raised in this report are a function of the United Nations capacity for rapid and effective action. As the Secretary-General notes, the Security Council must be prepared to act quickly to take advantage of opportunities to promote the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants in post-conflict situations. Swift and substantive United Nations peacekeeping action lends credibility to the Organization's own efforts and to national initiatives. In order to include a meaningful disarmament, demobilization and reintegration component in peacekeeping mandates, the Council must show a genuine will to build a capacity for rapid and adequate deployment. Canada sees the need for DDR as one of the more persuasive reasons to work to ensure that all components of the United Nations system are seized of the imperative to afford peacekeeping operations adequate mandates for conflict and post-conflict situations and the necessary resource commitment to carry out their increasingly diverse tasks. We look forward to the work of the upcoming study on United Nations peace operations and will encourage the panel to examine these issues and build on the findings of the Secretary-General in this regard.

The need for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is felt most keenly in peace-building processes built on the tenuous trust of weary combatants. It is an ephemeral opportunity that offers few second chances. Our goal must therefore be to get it right the first time and to commit ourselves early and fully to these programmes and the peace processes that give rise to them. There are several conflict situations in the world at this moment that may soon require comprehensive disarmament and demobilization initiatives. We believe that this report will serve as an excellent means of informing the work of the international community as it addresses the role of the United Nations in post-conflict peace-building in these circumstances.

Mr. Kuchynski (Ukraine): Ukraine welcomes today's discussion on the role of the United Nations in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants in a peacekeeping environment as a logical follow-up to a number of open debates held by the Security Council over the last two years on the issue of post-conflict peace-building.

My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for preparing a truly comprehensive report which contains very useful assessments, definitions and suggestions on the matter under our consideration. Taking into account Ukraine's statements in previous debates in the Council on closely related subjects and the comprehensive character of the Secretary-General's report, I will confine myself to making a few comments and remarks.

It is generally recognized that the relative decline in the frequency of inter-State armed conflicts in the post-cold-war era has caused the United Nations to focus more on the numerous internal conflicts. As a result, the evolution of United Nations peacekeeping has given birth to a new set of operations with multifunctional mandates to assist war-torn societies to move from violent conflicts towards reconciliation, economic reconstruction and democratic development.

Over the past decade, the United Nations has begun to deal more effectively with the problems of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants and accumulated invaluable experience in this field in a dozen of its peace-support operations around the globe. Ukraine has contributed to these international collective efforts, having participated in a number of United Nations operations and missions under DDR mandates, including those in Angola, Croatia and Guatemala. Currently, representatives of Ukraine serve with United Nations missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Tajikistan. Shortly, our representatives will join the staff of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor.

We consider that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants is one of the most vital elements of ensuring the advancement of the whole peace process in conflict-riven societies. Like no other constituent part of international post-conflict efforts, DDR activities bear a direct relation to a very sensitive human aspect of the peace process, embracing former combatants and the entire affected population.

Evidently, the success or failure of the DDR process as a whole and of its particular elements is crucial to the further progress of peaceful efforts to achieve the final

resolution of conflicts and to redress their consequences. We share the view expressed in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report, contained in document S/2000/101, that the process of DDR

> "may have a symbolic and political importance beyond the sum of its parts",

even if its full completion is hardly achievable.

At the same time, there is no doubt that it is the parties to a conflict themselves that shoulder the primary responsibility for the implementation of DDR programmes. We could not agree more with the view of the Secretary-General that

> "the basis for a successful disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme should be laid within the peace agreement which provides for the end of a conflict." *(ibid., para. 13)*

In this context, I believe, the Kosovo conflict can serve as an instructive example of the negative effects of the absence of such a foundation. In our view, had the peace agreement with the provision on DDR been concluded by the parties to the Kosovo conflict, the results of the current peace process as a whole, and the demobilization of the Kosovo Liberation Army in particular, could by now have been far more satisfactory.

Therefore, my delegation favours the idea of including within peace agreements the provisions outlining the commitments of the parties to a conflict to the DDR process. In this context, we also look forward to studying carefully the lessons-learned review of experiences with DDR, which was recently prepared by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and circulated a few minutes ago.

Ukraine remains gravely concerned about the problem of the impact of armed conflicts on children. We were appalled to read in the Secretary-General's report that an estimated 300,000 children are serving in armed conflicts around the world today. Again, Ukraine strongly condemns all acts of violence against children in international and internal armed conflicts and the horrendous practice of using children as instruments of war.

Against this background, we agree with the evaluations and proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers. My delegation particularly welcomes the new initiative of the Secretariat to include the position of a child protection adviser in two United Nations operations: in Sierra Leone and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Undoubtedly, this practice should become permanent for all current and future United Nations peace-support operations.

We are satisfied with the completion last January, within the framework of the relevant Working Group, of the draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Ukraine favours the earliest possible entry into force of this document, which would significantly strengthen the legal protection of children who are used as soldiers.

In the context of disarmament, we support the idea of troop-contributing countries establishing a database of experts on DDR. Ukraine is ready to participate in this work by submitting a list of relevant candidates.

In view of the direct impact of illicit arms flows on the DDR process in a peacekeeping environment, let me once again remind the Council of Ukraine's initiative to convene an meeting of international experts from major arms-producing countries, with a view to elaborating an effective mechanism to prevent the reselling of arms by the end users to third parties.

My delegation remains convinced of the primary role of the United Nations as a coordinator and originator of guidelines for the DDR process, which could also be complemented by the efforts of regional organizations.

In conclusion, I would like to express the support of my delegation for the draft presidential statement which the Council will be adopting shortly. We hope that this document, as well as our discussion today, will further contribute to strengthening the United Nations capacities for post-conflict peace-building.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Bangladesh.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his excellent statement this morning and for his comprehensive report on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration — commonly referred to as the DDR process.

The effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants strengthen post-conflict

peace-building and make peace sustainable. Increasingly, the United Nations peacekeeping operations are being mandated to facilitate the DDR process.

Bangladesh agrees with the suggestions of the Secretary-General on the ways United Nations peacekeeping operations can support and strengthen the DDR process.

But if the United Nations is to play a helpful role in this regard, the parties have to have the political will to commit themselves to peace, and the basis of the process should be laid within peace agreements that provide for the end of a conflict. Peace agreements should specify the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and establish broad strategies and time-frames. We agree with the Secretary-General that where a United Nations peacekeeping role is envisioned, the United Nations should be represented in the peace negotiations.

A second prerequisite for a successful DDR process is curbing the flow of arms in a post-conflict situation. If the flow of small arms and light weapons into the hands of belligerents continues unabated, there can never be successful disarmament. Efforts by the international community to this end are needed to ensure that while the parties involved are talking peace they are not preparing to resume war.

Bangladesh believes that United Nations peacekeeping operations can ensure a successful DDR process by facilitating the safety and security of the DDR sites, the collection and disposal of weapons and ammunition, demining activities, the creation of an environment of confidence and trust, the reconstruction of war-affected infrastructure, and the prevention of violations of peace agreements.

To do this, peacekeeping operations must have clearly defined tasks in their mandates and should have adequate means, including a deterrent capacity and training, as well as appropriate personnel to undertake these tasks. Resources provided to peacekeeping operations must match their mandates, and innovative ways for addressing the question of financing have to be taken up. There is also a need to harmonize the efforts of peacekeeping operations with those of other agencies and organizations involved and for greater coordination among them so that reintegration efforts are addressed in a comprehensive manner.

From our own experience in Bangladesh in successfully addressing this matter, we are convinced that only a comprehensive approach can result in effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants. The peace agreement concluded in 1997, regarding the Chittagong Hill Tracts, in south-east Bangladesh, provided autonomy to the region, mandated resettlement plans, addressed the question of land reform, ensured financing for development programmes that created livelihoods and jobs for the ex-combatants, and guaranteed the security of those who laid down their arms. The successful DDR process has enabled the region to experience economic and social development.

Before I conclude, I would like to raise one more important issue. We find it encouraging that the special needs of child soldiers and, more generally, of all war-affected children have been recognized by the Security Council and that institutional mechanisms are being arranged within peacekeeping operations to address them. The efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Olara Otunnu, have been most helpful in this regard. However, the needs of women ex-combatants have not been addressed with the urgency they deserve. We believe that it is time to take the matter up more urgently. It was really gratifying for us that, on International Women's Day earlier this month, the Council made a statement to the press on the situation of women in armed conflict. This was the first clear indication of the Council's concern, which provides strong support for the work that is being done in the Beijing + 5 process. We would urge the Secretary-General to keep this matter in mind.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Algeria. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Baali (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): I am particularly pleased to be speaking to the Council on behalf of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity at a time when you, Mr. President, have taken up your important duties with such distinction, talent and modesty. I should like to congratulate you sincerely and also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Ambassador of Argentina for the success with which he presided over the Council.

I should also like to congratulate the Secretary-General for the comprehensive report before the Council and for the important statement he made this morning.

The debate that you, Sir, have taken the initiative of organizing in the Security Council on the question of post-conflict peace-building in general, and on aspects of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in particular, is all the more timely — and, we hope, useful — in taking place at a time when, mindful of the growing complexity of peacekeeping operations our Secretary-General has taken the initiative of establishing a group to consider this question as a whole. It is a question whose importance goes beyond the strict framework of peacekeeping, inasmuch as it influences the length of time that conflict settlement and the gradual return to peace and stability will take.

The concept of peacekeeping has been constantly evolving and gradually changing in recent years with regard to both the proliferation of operations involving United Nations forces and resources and the very way in which such operations are understood, because their scope is expanding to encompass aspects that are relatively new, compared to how we looked at this issue not long ago.

The reasons for this development lie, first and foremost, in the changed nature of the conflicts in which the international community is being asked to intervene. For about 10 years now, most conflicts and crises have been internal and, often, inter-ethnic in nature, characterized by large-scale massacres and refugee flows. The United Nations, having been found wanting in Rwanda, Bosnia and elsewhere, can no longer allow such developments to occur with impunity.

Furthermore, while the role of the United Nations in inter-State conflicts is limited to separating the belligerent parties, placing itself between them, supervising the disengagement of the forces involved and monitoring truces, in the case of internal conflicts the mandate of United Nations forces must be broader and, as a result, more complex. Not only does it now have to separate the belligerent parties, but it has to work to eliminate the factors that might lead to a resumption of hostilities. Experience acquired in recent years in this area has led us to the realization that the mandate of peacekeeping operations must now include post-conflict peace-building elements in order to prevent a resumption of hostilities. Such measures include the disarmament of troops and militias that are not recognized as legal forces, the collection of weapons illegally held by ex-combatants, the demobilization of ex-combatants and their reintegration into society.

Furthermore, even if the conflicts facing the United Nations are internal in nature, they often involve several actors in the immediate vicinity of the country concerned, and even outside the region itself, which makes it even more difficult to deal with such problems and to settle conflicts and sometimes creates risks for the United Nations forces being deployed.

The growing reluctance of some countries to participate in peacekeeping operations, especially in Africa, has led to the greater involvement of regional organizations. This makes even more acute the problem of the relationship between the United Nations and regional peacekeeping organizations, against the backdrop of the problem of financing operations and the material, logistic and military capacities of the regional organizations in playing their new role.

In his report of 11 February 2000, entitled "The role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration", the Secretary-General goes into great detail about the purpose of these activities and their potential importance to the future conduct of peacekeeping operations and, consequently, to the future of all efforts to make peace and settle conflicts. We are very grateful to the Secretary-General for his analysis, which, based on experience gained by the United Nations in recent years, provides us with a set of useful and essential tools for gaining a better idea of how effectively to organize the work of the United Nations in this area. These elements relate to such important aspects as the coordination of efforts being made in this process, the mobilization of resources, capacity-building for United Nations personnel and the establishment, in general terms, of an international and local environment conducive to such work.

Post-conflict peace-building transcends the narrow framework of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration because it encompasses the search for equitable, reliable and credible solutions to the political, economic and social problems at the heart of these very conflicts. This is therefore long-term work, combining real political will at the local and, sometimes, at the regional level with the consistent support of the international community.

There is no point in silencing weapons and establishing a relative peace that is often maintained only by the presence of neutral peacekeeping forces, unless, at the same time, we courageously and resolutely attack the

very origins of the conflict and try to deal appropriately with their causes.

Consequently, as the Secretary-General pointed out so clearly in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, many conflicts in newly independent States seem to be the result of extreme poverty, which provides the ideal breeding ground not only for the growth and nurturing of fanaticism and violence, but for the seizure of power by force, the absence of democracy and the consequent lack of prospects for democratic change. Combined with external factors, this can sometimes lead to the outbreak of conflict.

Post-conflict peace-building must, increasingly, be part of a new approach based on traditional peacekeeping activities, accompanied by an ambitious peace-building programme built on the resumption of economic activities, electoral assistance, the rehabilitation of public institutions, the establishment of a national, integrated and representative army, and, sometimes, the convening of regional conferences.

This action on the part of the United Nations can clearly succeed only if the internal, and eventually regional, context is favourable. This means that there must first be genuine national reconciliation, which itself must result from a negotiated political settlement based on power-sharing and the strengthening of democratic practices. This also means that when neighbouring States are involved, their support is desirable, if not necessary.

The facts on the ground, we must admit, are much more complex, and the situation is more difficult to control, particularly with respect to the disarmament of ex-combatants, where lack of trust, fueled by years of war and the absence of any genuine will to cooperate on the part of the rebel leaders, often gives rise to insoluble problems.

The problems encountered by the disarmament and demobilization programme involving the UNITA rebels in Angola in the context of the Lusaka Protocol were the principal cause of the resumption of hostilities between that movement and the Angolan Government forces and consequently of the withdrawal from the country of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA), which took place in February 1999. UNITA actually used the peace process to build up its military capacity and to start acquiring mass quantities of new weapons. In addition, the arms handed over by Mr. Savimbi's troops under the disarmament programme were often obsolete and, in any case, only a tiny percentage of those weapons were actually handed over to the United Nations. Clearly, in the case of Angola, monitoring and follow-up of this aspect of the peace agreements was neither effective nor conclusive.

The many problems now facing the process of disarmament and demobilization of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone within the context of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) are evidence of the problems faced by the United Nations on the ground. During the public meeting of the Council on 13 March last, it was clearly established that the RUF forces and their chief, Mr. Sankoh, in particular, were not cooperating in the handing over of all of their weapons to the United Nations Mission under the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, as established by the Lomé Peace Agreement of 7 July 1999. Quite the contrary — the quantity, and particularly the quality and nature, of the arms handed over by RUF elements — in some cases only ammunition or hand grenades — leads one to believe that the real weapons are still in the hands of the movement, in violation of the agreements concluded.

Since we are speaking of Sierra Leone, I should like to touch on the question of child soldiers. Their demobilization and reintegration must be given particular consideration because they are so vulnerable and because of the serious traumas they have suffered in wartime. Very fortunately, in recent years we have seen positive experiences, for example, with respect to the United Nations Operation in Mozambique, or, more recently, in the framework of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic. In both cases the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, which in Mozambique led to the establishment of a national army and in the Central African Republic to the restructuring of a pre-existing army, on the whole was successful. To a large extent it enabled the process of peace and reconciliation to make significant progress and the countries concerned gradually to return to a situation of peace and stability.

In both cases, respect by the parties to the conflict of their commitments went a long way towards ensuring the success of the operation, even if the process that was begun in the Central African Republic by the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB), followed by the United

Nations Mission in the Central African Republic, has not been finalized completely.

In Kosovo, the determination shown by the international community and the significant resources provided made possible the disarmament of UCK combatants and opened the way to an international effort towards peace-building and a return to normalcy in that region. In this specific case, as I said earlier, significant political, military and human resources were utilized and went a long way towards facilitating the job on the ground, even if the disarmament campaign has not yet been fully finalized, as evidenced by the difficulties encountered by the United Nations in the last few weeks.

We hope that the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) will show the same determination in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Under the Lusaka Agreement, the demobilization and disarmament of about 10 armed movements, which are specifically mentioned in paragraph 9.1 of the Agreement, should be accorded special attention because of their repercussions on the follow-up to operations. Both the parties to the Lusaka Agreement, through the Joint Military Commission, and the United Nations, through MONUC, must play an active role to ensure the demobilization of those armed groups — which are rampant in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the region — and the implementation of the provisions of the Accord relating to them.

In this respect, we cannot but express our serious concern at the recent deterioration of the military situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and we solemnly call on the parties concerned scrupulously to observe the cease-fire and to honour their Lusaka commitments in order to ensure the full and prompt implementation of the 10 July 1999 agreement.

The same effort should be made by the Congolese parties to the Agreement and by MONUC, so that the process of establishing a restructured and integrated national army can take place under normal conditions and be concluded within a reasonable time period. Assistance, and financial assistance in particular, from the international community will no doubt be necessary in order to support and speed up the process.

Disarmament operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are made even more difficult by the fact that the situation in the country is related to a regional and international problem that will be the subject of a United Nations conference in 2001: the illicit circulation of small arms and, in some cases, the violation of arms embargoes imposed by the Security Council.

The proliferation of armed groups and bands in the Great Lakes region has been made possible in recent years by the availability of significant and uncontrollable quantities of arms. The lessons learned from recent experience highlight the difficulty of making real progress in the areas of demobilization and disarmament if we do not control and channel these illicit flows of arms, which foster tension and make it possible for various rival groups to rearm and to rebuild their potential to wage war.

It is therefore essential that, simultaneously with the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the framework of MONUC, the question of the illegal circulation of weapons in the Great Lakes region be considered based on a regional approach, and that the effectiveness of the arms embargo imposed by the Council on groups in the region be the subject of constant scrutiny and improvement.

The implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, particularly in Africa, relates to a crucial problem that recent experience has highlighted: the financing of operations to reintegrate ex-combatants. This is the third phase of the process — after demobilization and disarmament — and, despite its important and decisive impact on the success of the entire post-conflict peace-building effort, it has thus far not been dealt with properly on an ongoing basis.

It is regrettable that the financing of these programmes, and in particular the aspect relating to the reintegration of ex-combatants into civil society, is dependent on special trust funds and on international appeals. The unpredictable nature of these funds contrasts with the importance of the overall financial effort deployed in the context of the peacekeeping operation, considering that the financing of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration represents a relatively small amount compared to the overall resources committed.

In our view, this situation deserves in-depth discussion on how the financing of these programmes can as a rule be included in peacekeeping budgets, particularly with regard to the reintegration component. Once the burden of having to find financing had been

lifted, the implementation of these extremely important programmes could then be carried out according to a predetermined plan and finalized by offering ex-combatants in the programmes the possibility of true reintegration into productive society.

After this relatively brief overview, I would like to share with the Council some observations that I hope will be useful to its deliberations.

First, the inclusion of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes into peacekeeping operations should take place on the basis of a clear, concerted approach that includes the authorities of the country concerned as an element of the post-conflict peace-building effort. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration measures can take place only within the framework of a broader programme and as part of an effective and ambitious peace-building strategy. Those measures, which are essentially operational in nature and aimed at preventing a resumption of hostilities, should be part of a more global vision that addresses deals with the real causes of conflict.

Secondly, this comprehensive vision requires at least two essential conditions. First of all, disarmament and demobilization should be carried out by the parties to a peace or ceasefire agreement and through direct cooperation with the United Nations peacekeeping mission, which should have a sufficiently broad mandate to enable it to carry out its tasks.

Reintegration should then be given greater attention, for the reasons we have given here, and should in future be financed through United Nations mission resources and no longer on the basis of voluntary contributions, which are so unpredictable and often fall short of the requirements of operations. It remains understood that the practice of setting up special trust funds could be continued, but such funds should provide assistance supplementary to the main effort.

Thirdly, the mobilization of adequate financial and technical resources by international financial institutions, in particular by the World Bank, should be encouraged and steadily continued so as to ensure the significant support of these institutions for the efforts of the international community. The other programmes and agencies of the United Nations system — such as the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization — should continue to play an important role in providing expertise and resources, while they seek to improve coordination of their activities.

Finally, the inclusion of post-conflict peace-building elements in the mandates of peacekeeping operations should not be seen merely as an operational measure to support the peacekeeping effort and to prevent the spread of conflict or the resurgence of war.

While operational imperatives and the need to take quick decisions mean that the Security Council must assume a leading role, it should be pointed out that peace-building activities are not and cannot be the sole purview of the Security Council. The General Assembly has a key role to play here. We should recall that, during the discussions held in response to the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's 1995 "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace", a clear majority of Member States said they were in favour of entrusting these activities to the General Assembly. However, for practical and other reasons having to do with respect for the prerogatives and competencies of each of the United Nations bodies, the Economic and Social Council must be involved every time a question touches on economic and social development.

At the dawn of this new millennium, the universal mission of the United Nations is being increasingly validated and reinforced, thereby giving the Organization broader activities and missions to carry out in the service of the community of nations. Post-conflict peace-building, given the diversity of the missions and actions it encompasses, must take place in a political context and optimal operational conditions in order to be effective. That context requires, among other things, the full and ongoing cooperation of the parties concerned and, clearly, of regional organizations. In this regard, the Organization of African Unity is prepared not only to make its contribution, but also to provide its commitment.

However essential these conditions may be, they should not be at the expense of another equally essential element: steadfast and scrupulous respect for the independence and sovereignty of the States concerned in these processes. Those principles are clearly established in the Charter that governs our Organization. In manifesting such respect, United Nations missions would enjoy greater support throughout the world and would, thanks to that legitimacy and support, gain credibility and effectiveness.

The President: I thank the representative of Algeria for his kind words addressed to me.

At this point, I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Colombia and Guatemala in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ocaziones (Colombia) and Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of South Africa. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kumalo (South Africa): I would like to thank you, Mr. President for holding this meeting today.

We who hail from a conflict-ridden continent and who have seen the colossal human tragedies of conflict fully appreciate the convening of this meeting on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, commonly known as DDR. For us, this is an important issue that deserves this body's undivided attention for a number of reasons.

First, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants in the aftermath of conflict is increasingly placing more demands and challenges on peacekeeping operations, making it more imperative that we redefine the role and scope of contemporary United Nations peacekeeping operations. In this regard, South Africa believes that it no longer serves any good purpose to insist on an approach to peacekeeping that does not, where appropriate, include DDR. This would render peacekeeping moribund in relation to the actual challenges on the ground.

Secondly, DDR is proving every day to be an important and necessary process in stabilizing post-conflict situations and in preventing the recurrence of conflict at both the intra-State and regional levels; hence, it is an important tool in the maintenance of international peace and security. It is therefore more imperative now than ever before to consider the early integration of DDR into United Nations peacekeeping mandates, where applicable. The lack of timely and decisive DDR programmes in United Nations peacekeeping operations is bound to have a negative impact on the United Nations ability to really end the recurrence of conflict. We have seen throughout the world that such delays and lack of resolute action on DDR perpetuates polarization, making timely conflict prevention, management and resolution more difficult.

Thirdly, DDR provides an important bridge in the transition from the cessation of hostilities to sustainable peace by incorporating political, security, economic and social objectives. This demonstrates the need to desist from theorizing on what United Nations peacekeeping should be when our people, in the words of the Secretary-General,

> "need a real and sustained commitment to help end their cycles of violence, and launch them on a safe passage to prosperity".

Rather, our efforts should focus on ensuring that there are clearly defined mandates with adequate resources where DDR programmes are to be undertaken in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

It would be inappropriate to place squarely on the United Nations the responsibility for ensuring the success of DDR programmes. It is for this reason that South Africa strongly believes that, for the sake of their political legitimacy and in order to facilitate their timely implementation, DDR programmes should be strongly anchored in peace agreements that end conflicts. My delegation joins the call that parties concerned in fostering post-conflict stability should demonstrate the necessary political will by committing themselves to peace. It is of utmost importance that parties honour and adhere to the commitments they have made in reaching a peace agreement.

Likewise, political leaders must genuinely commit themselves to reconciliation through practical confidence-building measures that demonstrate this commitment. In this regard, a commitment to guarantee the security of those former combatants who decide to lay down their weapons must be made an integral part of DDR programmes, including the special needs of children, and in particular child soldiers, as well as of women and the elderly. The difficult decision that these former combatants make and the vulnerable situation that they

place themselves in should always be borne in mind. Their former comrades who do not make the courageous decision to lay down their arms often see them as traitors. They can therefore become the victims of their former brothers and sisters in arms as they await integration while in encampment areas.

Because of its wide scope, complexity and fragility, DDR also requires the support of the international community in order to succeed. In this regard, my delegation recommends that all efforts should be made to include other, non-United Nations institutions in the implementation of DDR programmes. This mammoth task can no longer be faced by the United Nations without the help of others.

The report of the Secretary-General before us on the role of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration offers useful ground on which to begin our work on this complex subject. South Africa attaches great value to this report, which provides us with a definition of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration within a peacekeeping environment, as well as practical suggestions on how the United Nations machinery could strengthen this in pursuit of more effective United Nations peacekeeping and peace-building activities.

We also believe that the proposal of the recently concluded session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations also offers practical suggestions on this issue. Its recommendation that the Secretariat should formalize lessons learned on DDR programmes that have made a valuable contribution to peace and regional stability should be pursued.

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to the convening of the informal meeting of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, to be held some time this year, as envisaged in the Committee's recent report. We believe that the Special Committee should focus on this issue, which falls within its mandate, as it is the only United Nations forum tasked with reviewing comprehensively the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. We believe that the views expressed at this meeting will be helpful in defining our approach not only to DDR, but to other peacekeeping-related issues as well.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Portugal. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Monteiro (Portugal): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — and the associated countries, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, as well as the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, Iceland and Liechtenstein, align themselves with this statement.

The European Union commends the Security Council, under your guidance, Mr. President, for holding a formal meeting on this important subject of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the context of peacekeeping.

The European Union expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General for his statement this morning and for the excellent report he has prepared on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, in response to the request made by the Security Council in its presidential statement of 8 July 1999, following the open debate held the same day on the matter. It is gratifying to note that the treatment of this important issue is being given appropriate continuity by the Security Council and the Secretary-General, particularly in the context of United Nations peacekeeping.

In this regard, the European Union also recalls the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, approved on 10 March 2000 and to be issued, which notes this report of the Secretary-General and addresses certain issues related to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and United Nations peacekeeping.

The report of the Secretary-General represents a comprehensive review of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, the role they play in establishing conditions for a long-lasting peace and in post-conflict peace-building, and the role United Nations peacekeeping operations can play in the conduct of these activities. The European Union endorses in general terms the goals established in the report and urges that appropriate follow-up be given to the recommendations contained therein by the Security Council and relevant United Nations departments and agencies, as well as by other organizations and by Member States.

As the Secretary-General points out, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities can represent the window of opportunity to advance a peace process, a window that may close if the international community does not swiftly and vigorously act by providing the United Nations with the necessary political support and adequate resources to pursue on the ground the mandate that has been given by the Security Council. It is interesting that all these points were reaffirmed in the Fifth Committee this morning, at its resumed session.

Like other essential activities that complement the efforts of peacekeeping operations, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes must be effectively integrated into multidisciplinary peacekeeping operations when they have been mandated. The European Union also believes that the most effective way to ensure this is for such programmes to be determined in the peace agreement that provides for the end of a conflict. As the Secretary-General has pointed out, this would ensure the clarity and timely implementation of the programmes and build confidence among the parties. The role of the Security Council in this regard is to reflect the importance attributed to these programmes by calling for the necessary expertise and resources to be made available.

As requested, the Secretary-General paid particular attention in his report to the problems of child soldiers. When dealing with this issue, we must have the best interests of these children uppermost in our minds. By identifying the existence of child soldiers at the outset in the peace agreement and by addressing their concerns in the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, as the Secretary-General suggests, we will be moving towards that goal, particularly in the long term. Nothing is gained from denying their existence and perpetuating their unfortunate condition, which can only augur badly for a long-lasting peace.

The European Union fully endorses the Secretary-General's recommendations with regard to child soldiers in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, particularly with respect to strengthening the performance of United Nations peacekeeping in addressing the special needs of children, and it welcomes the declared policy of including within all operations, where relevant, personnel with appropriate training in international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, including child-related and gender-related provisions. The European Union also shares the Secretary-General's recommendation that a holistic and long-term view be taken of the demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers, comprising social and economic aspects of the problem.

The Secretary-General has usefully identified the ways in which United Nations peacekeeping can assist in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes. Drawing on its impartial character and universal legitimacy, United Nations peacekeeping can play a crucial role in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes by building confidence and trust, by conveying a sense of security, by sustaining momentum and by channelling expertise.

The report shows clearly how peacekeepers participate actively in the process of disarmament of combatants — from the monitoring of ceasefires and the separation of forces to the supervision of disarmament sites, and from taking custody of surrendered weapons to the destruction of arms and addressing the problem of arms flows into a conflict area. They also have a role to play in monitoring and verifying the demobilization of troops and in providing security for quartered personnel. In the reintegration process, peacekeepers can assist in the transportation of former combatants to their homes and in the distribution of "reinsertion" packages to allow former soldiers to begin a civilian life.

But the Secretary-General is also right to point out that, while peacekeeping operations play a crucial role, the ultimate success of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process may require sustained efforts long after the withdrawal of a multidisciplinary peacekeeping operation. It is therefore necessary to take a long-term perspective on how the process is to be carried out, identify clearly the role of the peacekeeping operation in that process, provide it with the necessary resources and ensure the continuation of the process beyond the end of the peacekeeping mandate. Essential to those goals is the effective coordination of efforts in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, both at Headquarters and in the field, as well as with other United Nations agencies and international organizations crucial to these activities. An obvious model of such an approach — which would, of course, need to be adapted to each circumstance — is the activities of the United Nations in Mozambique, as the Secretary-General's clear references to that success story indicate.

The European Union looks forward to seeing the results of the work of the Lessons Learned Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the

elaboration of a set of principles and guidelines for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

In the context of wide-ranging European Union support for peace processes and peace-building activities, financial and in-kind contributions and support for capacity-building have been provided by States members of the European Union to, *inter alia*, demobilization and reintegration programmes in the Central African Republic and in Sierra Leone.

With regard to disarmament, the European Union attaches great importance to the particular problems caused by the alarming increase and spread of small arms and light weapons. The European Union adopted a joint action approach to small arms in December 1998, with a view to building consensus in the appropriate regional and international forums on the necessary principles and measures as the basis for regional and incremental approaches to the problem and, where appropriate, global international instruments on small arms. The European Union continues actively to pursue this approach and particularly looks forward to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be convened in the summer of 2001.

The European Union is also undertaking specific actions, through financial and technical assistance to programmes and projects related to small arms problems, notably in Albania, Cambodia and Mozambique, and we are considering specific action in other areas as well. The European Union is also providing assistance to the small arms moratorium put in place by the Economic Community of West African States, which seeks to prevent the illicit manufacture and trade of small arms and to ensure that these weapons are collected and put out of use.

A valuable tool in this area is the set of guidelines adopted by consensus by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in April 1999 on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace. The guidelines contain specific recommendations for the collection, control, disposal and destruction of arms, especially small arms and light weapons, and for the conversion of military facilities. They address the criteria required for a successful and well organized programme for the demobilization of combatants as well as measures needed for their effective integration into civil society. These guidelines can assist the international community, as well as regions, subregions and countries directly affected, in this area, and should be drawn upon in the design of mandates for future United Nations peacekeeping or preventive operations. In this context, we also acknowledge the importance of the recommendations of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms.

The European Union supports the specific recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report with a view to strengthening the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. To assist the United Nations in providing the necessary expertise for such difficult tasks, the European Union supports the maintenance of databases of expertise on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and the inclusion of these areas in national training programmes for peacekeepers. This would help overcome the difficulties sometimes experienced by the United Nations in locating experienced disarmament experts and trainers for United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Attentive consideration should also be given to the question of offering incentives for disarmament, to the destruction of weapons and to the monitoring and control of regional arms traffic, taking into account the economic dimensions of arms flows. In this context, the European Union especially welcomes the work and the initiatives of the group of interested States. That group supports concrete projects of practical disarmament, including in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and serves as a forum for the exchange of information about relevant lessons learned in this field. The initiative has the support of the Secretary-General.

With regard to the demobilization process, the report rightly emphasizes the importance of giving peacekeeping operations a strong political role and ample resources, including a deterrent capacity. The European Union agrees with the Secretary-General that demobilization and reintegration programmes need to be placed on a firmer financial footing and that provision also needs to be made for special measures for child soldiers. The European Union invites the Secretary-General to explore with, *inter alia*, Member States and the World Bank, a range of possible options, and to make further detailed recommendations on this subject, as necessary.

United Nations peacekeeping operations can also play a crucial role, as the Secretary-General has described, in the creation of the physical, political and social infrastructures necessary for successful

reintegration programmes. In this regard, the activities of United Nations peacekeeping operations in institution-building, elections, human rights and the judicial system, including the police, are vital.

In view of the lead responsibility of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for multidimensional peacekeeping operations, coordination within the Secretariat and with relevant agencies within the United Nations system, as well as with regional organizations, intergovernmental bodies, bilateral programmes and non-governmental organizations, is essential to the success of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and should continue to be strengthened. In the same sphere, the consolidation of the authority of special representatives over all United Nations entities is most welcome and should be further strengthened by the appointment of resident coordinators as deputies to heads of mission.

This is an important report and will serve amply to continue to develop the vital capacity of the United Nations in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. At stake is the long-term resolution of conflicts; these activities are a small price to pay for peace.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Norway. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kolby (Norway): From Kosovo to the Congo, from Sierra Leone to East Timor, the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants is playing an increasingly important role in United Nations peace operations.

Norway would therefore like to commend the Security Council and you, Mr. President, for calling this formal meeting, and to thank the Secretary-General for an excellent report on the subject. We would also like to commend the delegation of Malaysia for its efforts. Norway fully supports the objectives and recommendations of the Secretary-General.

Following armed conflict, particularly internal conflicts, a comprehensive approach to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is necessary in order to prevent the recurrence of violence. Incorporating political, security, economic and social objectives, DDR provides a bridge from the cessation of hostilities to sustainable peace. As such, DDR must not only focus on short-term demobilization programmes, but also be an integral part of the longer-term process of reconciling formerly hostile communities and reintegrating ex-combatants, with a special emphasis on child soldiers and other vulnerable groups.

It is essential that United Nations officials and others who take part in DDR verification operations have in-depth knowledge of all the mechanisms involved in this process. Excellent work has been done by the United Nations and other organizations and countries to strengthen education and training. The Lessons Learned Unit study on DDR in a peacekeeping environment is among the substantial contributions to this work. Norway is pleased to have had the opportunity to support this study and will participate in its follow-up.

One important aspect is the security of ex-combatants who comply with United Nations requests to hand in their weapons. For many, this is a difficult choice. Their comrades who do not make this courageous decision often see them as traitors. They can therefore become victims, of aggression not only by former enemies, but also by former brothers in arms. To avoid a situation where those who comply with United Nations requests are in fact punished, the security of disarmed soldiers must be an integral part of any DDR programme.

The proliferation, misuse and excessive accumulation of small arms and light weapons is an area of great concern in carrying out peace operations. Most contemporary conflicts have been fought with small arms and light weapons; international humanitarian law is often disregarded and civilians, as well as humanitarian operations and United Nations and other personnel, are often targeted. Proper safeguarding or destruction of post-conflict stockpiles of small arms and light weapons can alleviate such problems. Norway renders support to individual States, regional and multilateral organizations requiring assistance in weapons collection and destruction programmes. In this connection, Norway supports the United Nations Development Programme's trust fund for weapons collection, which is providing development for communities in return for arms they surrender. Furthermore, it is important that disarmament and weapons destruction be incorporated as an element of peace settlements and that peace operations are given clear mandates in this regard.

Funding for DDR activities is a crucial challenge and responsibility for the international community. Inadequate financial support can undermine peace implementation efforts. Norway will continue to provide

a high level of voluntary contributions to the activities of the United Nations system in this field. My Government intends to further increase our assistance to peace-building efforts in Sierra Leone and elsewhere, particularly in Africa, in line with our large and long-standing engagement in that region. Like the Secretary-General and other speakers, Norway is encouraged by the experience of Mozambique and would like to commend the United Nations and the Government of Mozambique for the successful efforts made.

As the Secretary-General points out, reintegration represents a particularly complex part of the DDR process. The support of the international community for national plans for reconciliation, reconstruction and long-term social and economic development is crucial in order to persuade ex-combatants to rejoin civil society and thus to obtain lasting peace. In the view of the Norwegian Government, combating poverty and underdevelopment is vital to preventing conflicts and their recurrence. The international donor community must follow up on the Secretary-General's call for increased development assistance to get at the root causes of violent conflicts. My Government is committed to continue Norway's efforts in this regard.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Japan. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kobayashi (Japan): I would like to begin by commending you, Mr. President, on your initiative in convening this meeting to consider ways and means of strengthening United Nations peacekeeping efforts in the area of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). The importance of the DDR process cannot be overemphasized, as it is key to preventing the recurrence of conflict and to paving the way for post-conflict peace-building.

My delegation is grateful to the Secretary-General for preparing the thorough and inspiring report that is before us; we fully share the concerns described in it. As one of the financial contributors to the study conducted by the Lessons Learned Unit, Japan is particularly gratified that many elements contained in the Unit's report have been incorporated into that of the Secretary-General. We are also pleased to note that the report embraces many of the recommendations made by the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Donowaki of Japan.

Of the wide range of issues covered in the Secretary-General's report, I would like to focus my remarks on three of them — namely, the need for greater coordination, the need to address the question of child soldiers and ways to secure adequate financial resources.

The first point is the question of coordination. As stated in the report, the process of DDR is a complex and multidimensional one, involving various actors such as former warring factions, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Coordination among the different actors is essential to the success of the process. From the viewpoint of ex-combatants, for example, the decision to cooperate with the DDR process is in itself a difficult one, and so it is up to the international community to ensure that a well-planned, coordinated and reliable mechanism is in place to support that decision.

In order to achieve this goal, coordination must be improved at three levels: within the United Nations Secretariat, between the United Nations and related organizations — including the Bretton Woods institutions — and in the field. Of those three levels, I would like to stress the need for coordination in the field, as this is the level at which all actors finally get together and directly face ex-combatants who are to be disarmed, demobilized and reintegrated into society.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General has an especially important coordinating role to play. Past experience has taught us that when a Special Representative is well selected and is given appropriate authority and resources, coordination in the field is enhanced, making the chances for success that much greater. We therefore wish to stress that the position of Special Representative should be filled by a highly qualified and capable person and that he or she should be given sufficient authority to effectively carry out the role.

My second point relates to the issue of child soldiers. My delegation shares the view of the Secretary-General that this question demands particular attention throughout the DDR process. Children are the foundation and future of a country, and the specific physical and psychological needs of those who have been used as soldiers must be attended to if the country is to achieve lasting peace.

In this context, my delegation welcomes the recent appointment of child protection advisers to the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Sierra Leone and to the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic

of the Congo. We would like to encourage the Secretary-General to review other United Nations peacekeeping operations in order to identify situations where the appointment of child protection advisers may be necessary.

Permit me on this occasion to reiterate the position of the Government of Japan that children under the age of 18 should not, under any circumstances, be used in hostilities. Japan strongly supports the draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by a Working Group of the Human Rights Commission in January.

My final point concerns financial resources needed for the DDR process, although I realize that financial matters are also dealt with in other relevant forums of the Organization. As the Secretary-General pointed out, the resources for disarmament activities within a peacekeeping operation are generally provided through the assessed contributions to the budget of that operation, while the resources for demobilization and reintegration activities are provided through voluntary contributions. My delegation recognizes that the current practice of utilizing resources from trust funds established with voluntary contributions for such purposes has its merits. As a matter of fact, Japan contributed $960,000 to the Trust Fund to support United Nations peacekeeping-related efforts in Sierra Leone, to be used exclusively for the purpose of DDR. Although by virtue of its flexibility this trust fund formula has proved to be useful, we recognize that providing the necessary resources from the assessed budget would enhance an operation's financial stability.

Bearing in mind these considerations, I would like to stress that Japan, which is responsible for 20 percent of the assessed budget of all peacekeeping operations, is willing to consider a proposal which the Secretary-General put forward in his report to examine how the DDR activities in a peacekeeping operation should be financed.

In concluding, let me once again underscore the importance my delegation attaches to today's debate in the Security Council. I might add that the concerns expressed by the Council at its previous meeting on this subject, in July of last year, and the points made in the Secretary-General's report are fully consonant with the position my delegation has been advocating in other forums of the United Nations, such as the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the First Committee and the preparatory committee for the international Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. You may be assured, Mr. President, that Japan will actively participate in the consideration of this issue and make every effort to enhance the chances of success of the DDR process.

The President: There are a number of speakers remaining on my list. In view of the lateness of the hour, and with the concurrence of the members of the Council, I intend to suspend the meeting now.

The meeting was suspended at 1.20 p.m.

United Nations

S/PV.4118 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Fifty-fifth Year

Provisional

4118th Meeting

Thursday, 23 March 2000, 3.15 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Chowdhury	(Bangladesh)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Cappagli
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Levitte
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mrs. Ashipala-Musavyi
	Netherlands	Mr. Hamer
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Tunisia	Mr. Ben Mustapha
	Ukraine	Mr. Yel'chenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Harrison
	United States of America	Ms. Soderberg

Agenda

Maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peace-building

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (S/2000/101)

00-35648 (E)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was resumed at 3.15 p.m.

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Indonesia in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Wibisono (Indonesia) took the seat reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of New Zealand. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Powles (New Zealand): I should like to say at the outset, Sir, how pleased my delegation is to participate under your presidency in a debate of the Security Council on this crucially important subject. We believe that the complexities of post-conflict peace-building and the challenges posed to the United Nations and the international community generally deserve thorough consideration.

New Zealand has had recent experience of the challenges of post-conflict peace-building during the current operation in East Timor, as well as during our ongoing substantial role in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, and elsewhere.

An important point to be made, we believe, is that obviously no two post-conflict peace-building situations are the same. It would not be helpful for the Council to seek to define very detailed policy approaches which would be applicable in all situations. Nevertheless, my delegation believes that there are some key principles which do have general application and deserve greater recognition.

Most important of all, we would place timeliness of response at the top of any list of key principles.

In the case of East Timor, New Zealand and others moved quickly, under effective Australian leadership, to provide the military force necessary to re-establish security, as mandated by the Council. United Nations agencies, led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), responded reasonably promptly with humanitarian relief. The World Bank and other major donors also responded at an early stage with the implementation of a donor coordination programme. These responses were delivered in a reasonably timely manner.

There has also been an urgent need to re-establish a basic civil administration, a legal system, and the foundation for a functioning economy. This has been done with greater difficulty. Bureaucratic procedures such as those used for recruitment for the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) seem to underlie some of the unfortunate delays.

While it would not be realistic to expect the international community to rebuild East Timor's shattered economy overnight, we have already seen many signs of the social stresses inevitable in the period before employment-generating projects get under way. We believe this is recognized by UNTAET, the World Bank and other international donors, but we would emphasize the important contribution that timely responses in this field, going beyond emergency humanitarian aid, make to the peace-building effort.

One practical area that my delegation believes requires more attention relates to the provision of civilian police. Inevitably, appropriate numbers of civilian police cannot be found as quickly as can military forces; countries simply do not keep civilian police detachments available for rapid deployment overseas. But the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants can be fatally impaired if sufficient numbers of civilian police cannot be deployed rapidly. We believe that options for improving the availability of police to the United Nations need to be urgently explored. However, a timely response is possible only if good quick-response systems for deploying key personnel, such as civilian police, and for delivering the means to rebuild basic civilian administration are already in place. Such arrangements do not yet exist across the United Nations system. This is the challenge that the United Nations needs to address as a priority.

Identifying appropriate post-conflict roles for former combatants is inevitably one of the most challenging tasks in peace-building. Obviously, each situation will require its own unique solutions. Our experience in both East Timor and Bougainville underlines, however, the importance of the early involvement of the local population in the reconstruction process. Community

development can be instrumental in providing an atmosphere in which hostile factions can work together. Of course, women and men must participate equally in that process.

In Bougainville, New Zealand has been pleased to provide, by means of our Development Cooperation Programme, support for the peace process, including the restoration of civil authority and a variety of vocational training programmes with a focus on reintegration. We have found it possible to offer various training programmes in which former antagonists learn new skills side by side. But even so, in Bougainville the former combatants retain their arms although, to their credit, those arms have not been used against the uniquely unarmed peacekeeping force, the Peace Monitoring Group. In this situation, further political progress is clearly necessary to encourage complete disarmament.

We have studied the comprehensive report the Secretary-General has provided on this important subject. Inevitably, his report focused on the subject from a global perspective, while my comments today have been from the perspective of my country's ongoing involvement on the ground in East Timor and Bougainville. But I would like to take this opportunity to particularly endorse the Secretary-General's recommendations regarding the dreadful use of child soldiers, and we would also emphasize the need to address the specific situation of girl soldiers.

I would like to conclude by strongly endorsing the final comment of the Secretary-General in his report:

> "The international community's key role in this process is to provide clear, consistent and determined support to an overall peace process and to offer long-term assistance with development." *[S/2000/101, para. 119]*

If there is one point we would add to that, it is the crucial importance of timeliness of response.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Mongolia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia): It is a great honour for me to have the opportunity to participate in this open debate of the Council on this item. At the outset, I would like to express my delegation's appreciation to you, Mr. President, for this timely initiative to follow-up last year's open debate of the Council on this important issue with the participation of the wider membership of the Organization.

My delegation's thanks and appreciation also go to the Secretary-General for his report to the Council in response to last year's open debate held under Malaysia's presidency. My delegation welcomes the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on the question of increasing the role of United Nations peacekeeping in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants as an integral part of overall United Nations peacekeeping operations and post-conflict peace-building.

My delegation fully agrees with the view that effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration are instrumental in building lasting peace and security in post-conflict societies. In this respect, the set of recommendations proposed by the Secretary-General in his report are crucial in identifying the appropriate principles and guidelines for a practical disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme in a peacekeeping environment. Therefore we hope that today's consideration of this item will prove useful for future peacekeeping operations and post-conflict peace-building activities.

My delegation has on numerous occasions made statements in the Council's open debates on the issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as on post-conflict peace-building. Today, I would like to touch upon some elements that seem to be essential, from Mongolia's perspective, to effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration measures in post-conflict situations.

First, any post-conflict peace-building programme should include short-term measures, such as the disarmament and demobilization of ex-combatants and the social integration of political rivals into post-war society on the basis, of course, of their goodwill and mutual confidence. Furthermore, these short-term measures need to be followed-up by long-term programmes and strategies aimed at strengthening national institutions, good governance and civil society; promoting democracy and human rights; eradicating poverty; and, of course, ensuring sustainable development.

Secondly, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, in our view, should form an interrelated and integrated programme within the mandate of a

specific peacekeeping mission that is supported by sufficient financial and human resources and other necessary facilities. It is our belief that only such a peacekeeping mission would be able to fully cope with the tasks assigned.

Thirdly, overall disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes should lay the foundation for a comprehensive peace agreement that is to end the conflict. In our view, the plan of measures to be taken, both nationally and internationally, to implement the tasks of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration should be clearly reflected in that peace agreement.

Fourthly, ensuring the participation of international organizations and Member States and the coordination of their activities are very important factors in tailoring those specific peace-building measures and programmes. In our view, the international community and regional organizations should play an important role in addressing the problems of various post-conflict groups on the basis of new power-sharing or other agreed arrangements. We believe that, bearing in mind their nature, obligations and interests, regional organizations have a special stake and role to play in post-conflict peace-building — a role that no other international body can effectively fulfil. We hope that this will be borne in mind.

Fifthly, as far as disarmament is concerned, we attach great importance to the United Nations conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects that is to be convened in June and July 2001. In this respect, my delegation agrees with others in urging the international community to spare no effort in bringing the conference on this crucial issue to a positive outcome.

Sixthly, my delegation would like to support the Secretary-General's special focus on the problem of child soldiers and their integration into society.

Today, about 300,000 children under the age of 18 are involved in armed conflicts around the world. This is a truly challenging problem facing the international community at the dawn of this new century. Therefore, Mongolia strongly endorses the Secretary-General's proposal that the question of child soldiers' disarmament, demobilization and reintegration be fully included in overall peace-building programmes. In this connection, we also welcome the agreement recently reached in the Working Group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, raising the minimum age for participation in conflict from 15 to 18, and setting the age limit for compulsory recruitment to 18 and the minimum age for voluntary enlistment to at least 16.

Lastly, my delegation would like to underline that, while the United Nations undertakes peacekeeping and peace-building activities, the principles of political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity are to be fully respected and all States should comply with their obligations under international law, as is rightly noted in the draft presidential statement on this issue. My delegation finds this draft document useful and practical and hopes it will be adopted soon.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate once again my delegation's support for United Nations efforts aimed at conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building in different regions affected by armed conflicts. We expect concrete input from today's discussion of this important issue.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Croatia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Šimonović (Croatia): I am pleased to greet you, Sir, as the President of the Security Council for the month of March and welcome your initiative to hold an open debate on the centrality of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants to the restoration of stability and sustainable peace. Croatia understands well the importance of the role United Nations peacekeeping has played in the past and could play in the future in this regard. Hence, we wish to thank and commend the Secretary-General for his thorough, systematic and comprehensive report on the topic under our consideration.

The report represents a major contribution to furthering the awareness of the importance of DDR to the cause of consolidating peace in post-conflict societies in several ways. First, it offers useful definitions of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in a peacekeeping environment and a reminder that the success of these activities depends on their comprehensive, mutual and continuous reinforcement. Secondly, the report contains a very useful compendium and critical assessment of the ways and means in which the various United Nations, regional and other actors have dealt with DDR in the past within the context of some peacekeeping operations and follow-on missions. Thirdly, the Secretary-General identifies a number of

challenges for future implementation of DDR in all segments of the peace-setting, peacekeeping and peace-building agendas. Fourthly, he puts forward a number of innovative proposals for further pioneering action or refinement by the Security Council and other institutional actors with a vested interest in assuring irreversible peace.

Croatia has hosted five distinct United Nations peacekeeping operations in the last nine years. We have gained experience that entitles us to reflect upon the lessons learned in peacekeeping and peace-building. I wish to briefly restate three points from the lessons learned from the successful United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES). These three points are: the disarmament model that was used during the UNTAES mission; follow-on security assistance and political missions that ensued upon the successful completion of this United Nations Mission; and national strategy and policy measures regarding the rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants.

UNTAES was created in an environment favourable to its ultimate goal of the peaceful reintegration of the formerly occupied Croatian territory. There was agreement of the parties to the conflict. Recourse to the military option was unattractive to all interested parties and the political goal of peaceful reintegration was clearly set and known, as well as supported by the political will of the host Government, the international community and the skilled United Nations leadership in the field. And yet, the process of reintegration was, of course, more than politically challenging. It represented major technical and bureaucratic difficulties for the civilian aspects of reintegration.

Critical to the orderly implementation of the civilian timetable for reintegration, however, was the process of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. Importantly, this process was not only launched early on in the operation, but also completed swiftly and in parallel with an innovative manner of a weapons buy-back scheme.

The firearms buy-back programme lasted approximately 10 months and was jointly conducted by the Croatian Government and UNTAES. Under the programme, almost 10,000 firearms were collected, for which approximately $1.6 million were paid. Since August 1999, any further illegal possession of arms has been penalized. We do recognize that, in some other environments, similar weapons buy-back programmes produced undesired consequences, but I wish to stress that in Croatia such a programme worked quite well.

Another important element in UNTAES was the role played by the Transitional Police Force, which was made up of 40 per cent Croats, 40 per cent Serbs and 20 per cent other ethnic groups present in the region. The international community provided training assistance for a number of the Transitional Police Force members, which proved crucial for establishing a high level of professionalism. This building of local capacity was vital to the proper reintegration of former combatants and the maintenance of law and order.

The critical importance of economic and social policy measures to speeding up reconciliation and the overall post-conflict recovery cannot be overemphasized. In Croatia, we tried to stimulate the reintegration of ex-combatants in several ways, including by adopting an amnesty law that exonerated former rebels, except for those who had committed war crimes. Other measures included priority access by veterans to higher education and employment in the public sector; preferential lines of credit for new business ventures or agricultural leases; special unemployment benefits, including health care; and early retirement benefits.

Such economic, social and development policy measures have proven taxing on the national budget of an economy burdened with reconstruction, low investment and real growth rates and high unemployment, as is always the case in a post-conflict society. The new Croatian Government, which has also recently mounted a major refugee return programme, has recognized the challenges of the practical implementation of a comprehensive reintegration policy. While offering its unwavering commitment to implementing such a policy, it has called for much needed international assistance in resurrecting an economy that could sustain development needs. At the same time, we recognize that the contribution of institutional donors might be limited, as it is also urgently needed elsewhere. Hence, we are placing particular emphasis on the potential of the private sector and direct business-to-business cooperation.

In this regard, we wholeheartedly support the Secretary-General's emphasis on the potential role to be played by the business community and his call on the Security Council

> "to explore the creation of mechanisms through which it could enhance its capacity to enter into dialogue with business". (*S/2000/101, para. 111*)

Of equal and timely relevance is his call issued to Member States to re-examine bilaterally the various development and trade policies that favour employment within post-conflict economies.

Although reconciliation is not emphasized in the Secretary-General's report, we continue to hold that it constitutes one of the cornerstones of a successful disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. Above all, establishing the truth about what happened during a conflict — particularly establishing responsibility for war crimes that have been committed — is critical to healing and reconciliation. The goal of the reintegration of former combatants thus cannot be attained without this element of justice. Croatia is aware of its own responsibilities and obligations in this regard.

It is therefore Croatia's intention to fully implement a policy of responsible cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. For the sake of justice, the historical record, reconciliation, and peace and stability in the area, it is vital that the Security Council use all its power and influence to ensure that all those indicted, including those from the Republika Srpska and from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, are finally brought to trial.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Bahrain. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Buallay (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): I wish, Sir, to congratulate you and your delegation on your election to membership of the Security Council, and on the excellent and wise way in which you are presiding over the work of the Council this month. Our thanks go to you also for having organized this meeting.

During its tenure as a member of the Security Council, Bahrain contributed to the consultations on post-conflict peace-building; we welcomed the outcome of those consultations. That is what has prompted us to participate in today's meeting, in the hope that we would be able to contribute further to the debate.

Post-conflict disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations are of great importance in stabilizing situations, reducing the probability of new violence, and facilitating the transition of societies from conflict to normal life and development. For that reason, it is very important that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes be included in any post-conflict peace agreements. Such agreements must specify the responsibilities of leading national institutions and other actors, along with the measures that they need to take with respect to this issue; they must define both the strategies and the timetables for these programmes.

We endorse the definitions contained in the report of the Secretary-General on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, but we stress that if such post-conflict operations are to succeed, we must focus on the following nine elements.

First, the parties to the conflict must provide precise information about the size, staffing, location, nature, number and location of stockpiles of weapons.

Second, the framework for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration must be defined in the peace agreement marking the end of a conflict.

Third, the States Members of the United Nations must provide the political momentum necessary to encourage negotiators to take the difficult, but necessary, decisions.

Fourth, ex-combatants must be reassured that their safety and security will be fully guaranteed prior to and during the disarmament phase.

Fifth, the expertise and resources necessary for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration must be provided, with a view to implementing the peace agreement.

Sixth, illicit arms flows must be halted.

Seventh, all parties must be persuaded of the futility of a resumption of hostilities.

Eighth, civil society must be prepared to accept the reintegration of ex-combatants; this includes the need to find appropriate jobs for them once they have been rehabilitated.

And ninth, international efforts to promote disarmament, demobilization and reintegration must be coordinated and fostered.

Most of the elements of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, of course, are quite clear. But certain issues must be given more careful consideration. These include the deployment

of United Nations personnel to neighbouring countries with a view to forging links with their national counterparts, and to monitoring arms flows in the region. But this must not compromise the principles of State sovereignty and of non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

There is an inextricable link between the maintenance and the building of peace. Areas in which conflict had taken place must not experience the resumption of conflict.

There must be cooperation and coordination between tow organs of the United Nations: the Security Council, which is responsible for the maintenance of peace and security, and the Economic and Social Council, which is responsible for the building and consolidation of peace, along with the related specialized agencies. In that connection, we are pleased to see that there have been signs of such cooperation and coordination between the two organs, as in Haiti for example. We would like these links to be strengthened, as they were when the Presidents of the two Councils met recently. Why, then, should there not be a joint meeting of members of the Security Council and of the Economic and Social Council to consider strategies that would clearly define the activities of each organ with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security.

I cannot fail in conclusion to stress that peace is an integral whole, no component of which must be neglected. Peace requires cooperation among all members of the international community, whether it is a matter of the maintenance of peace or of post-conflict peace-building.

The President: I thank the representative of Bahrain for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Costa Rica. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Niehaus (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council and to thank you for convening this meeting.

Peace is not merely the absence of armed conflict; peace is harmony among the various sectors of society, equitable relations among individuals and peoples, and the rejection of violence and hatred in human relations.

War often leads to other wars. Armed conflicts fuel deep-rooted hatreds and provoke reprisals. Armed violence is an ongoing offence against the dignity and the rights of individuals. Genuine peace requires the commitment of all, ex-combatants and civilians alike, in the task of rebuilding and restoring normalcy to society. Peace requires active brotherhood among all men. In short, peace can exist only to the extent that we all recognize that, as human beings, we are part of the same family.

This goal is not easy to attain. Normalizing human and international relations after armed conflict phase is an arduous undertaking. A ceasefire does not halt the dynamic of violence; hatred and the lust for vengeance still remain. The temptation to use weapons and military contingents remains latent. The logic of violence and military strategy persists. Unless the combatants are disarmed and demobilized, the prospects of peace will be darkened by the ever-present threat of the resumption of hostilities and violent crime.

In Central America we have witnessed first-hand the importance of the tasks of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. On the one hand, we have seen the achievements of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) and the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA). Unquestionably, these missions were key actors in restoring normalcy and peace to those societies.

On the other hand, in Central America we have also witnessed failed processes of demobilization and disarmament. We have seen cycles of revolutionary and counter-revolutionary groups that continue to cause suffering for innocent people. We have also seen the overabundant supply of weapons that, at the end of an armed conflict, like an epidemic, infects neighbouring countries with violence, crime and destruction. In Costa Rica we are well aware of the vital need to disarm combatants and to destroy their weapons.

The stockpiling of arms and ammunition is a real obstacle to peace processes and a direct threat to all countries neighbouring a conflict zone. Costa Rica calls for the destruction of these weapons and a ban on the transfer of weapons to anyone who does not comply with a set of strict international standards of conduct. In this regard, my Government firmly supports the draft international code of conduct on arms transfers, prepared by the former President of Costa Rica, Mr. Oscar Arías Sanchez, and endorsed by 19 other Nobel Peace Prize laureates, both individuals and institutions. At the request of my delegation, this draft code of conduct has been distributed in document S/2000/146.

In addition, while peacekeeping operations can and must provide valuable support to the tasks of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, Governments and groups involved in the conflicts must assume the primary responsibility. Political and military leaders of the warring parties must show their commitment to peace by taking concrete measures to demobilize and disband their military contingents. If these tasks are carried out simultaneously on both sides, they will help reduce tension, promote stability and build confidence.

My delegation is particularly pleased to welcome the emphasis placed in the report on the plight of children. It is alarming that 300,000 boys and girls are now taking part in armed conflicts. We believe that the participation of minors under the age of 18 in armed conflicts, be they combatants or support staff for armed forces, is in all circumstances unacceptable. Children are the first and the most defenceless victims of war. All Governments need to demobilize those minors immediately, whether they are members of the armed forces or support staff. Similarly, Governments must actively promote the reintegration of boys and girls who have been demobilized from opposition armed forces. It is essential to provide psychological and social help to these children in order to enable them to make a full physical and emotional recovery and to be reintegrated into society.

In particular, we believe that it is necessary to give greater help to the families of demobilized children so that they have an emotional support network and a structure of ethical and moral values that will enable them to become constructive members of their communities. In short, we call for a society where families take precedence — not barracks.

Finally, we cannot ignore the economic aspect of peace processes. The reintegration of combatants requires the establishment of employment opportunities and development. If no alternatives are offered to war and crime as economic activities, then military personnel will not have a real incentives to demobilize. Extreme poverty, hunger and discrimination are often sources of hatred and violence. Equity, justice and solidarity are essential, fundamental elements for the building of real and lasting peace.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Singapore. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Mahbubani (Singapore): We congratulate you, Mr. President, on your initiative to have a second debate on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). We would also like to thank Malaysia for introducing this item in the Council last July. We hope that over time, with the discussion of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, when United Nations delegates see the term "UN-DDR" they will no longer associate it solely with the United Nations Delegates' Dining Room.

The fact that we are talking about DDR today as a normal aspect of peacekeeping operations shows how far peacekeeping has evolved. In the early days of peacekeeping, the sole purpose of a peacekeeping operation was to provide a buffer between two combating countries after they had decided to make peace. If these combatants attempted to breach the peace, the United Nations peacekeeping operation would merely report the breach without seeking to enforce the ceasefire. Indeed, the pride of traditional United Nations peacekeeping forces was that they could do their job without using force and, often, without arms. The Blue Helmets served as a true symbol of peace.

It is truly amazing how much things have changed since those halcyon days. Indeed, United Nations peacekeepers have been deployed in such a variety of roles that it may be legitimate to ask whether the term "peacekeeping" has a distinct or singular meaning. The Secretary-General's initiative in creating a new panel under the leadership of Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi to study all aspects of peacekeeping is therefore timely. Significantly, this project is called "peace operations". The use of this term implicitly acknowledges that the concept of peacekeeping may no longer be adequate to cover all the work that the United Nations is doing now under the umbrella of peacekeeping. We would like to note here that peacekeeping operations are traditionally launched under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter, but sometimes under Chapter VII or in between. It may be useful for Mr. Brahimi's panel to assess the criteria for creating peacekeeping operations under Chapter VI or Chapter VII, because at this stage we are not clear as to what the criteria are.

DDR is, therefore, clearly a new dimension of peacekeeping. However, when we compare this new dimension with the traditional work done by the Blue Helmets in the past, we must acknowledge that disarmament and demobilization are inherently difficult and dangerous operations. Most people who have been

carrying guns for years have either been shot at or have been shooting at others. Guns have become an essential part of their existence. Indeed, many feel naked without them. They will not part with their guns easily. One clear example of this can be found in Sierra Leone. In his new book, *Deliver Us From Evil*, William Shawcross writes:

> "The RUF [Revolutionary United Front] was part of a post-cold-war phenomenon — a non-ideological guerrilla movement. As elsewhere in Africa, AK-47s gave dispossessed young men more money and more *raison d'être* — even if it was only senseless violence — than peace."

But it is not only the United Nations that has had problems with disarmament. Even peace processes outside the United Nations framework — for example, the Northern Ireland peace process — have had similar difficulties with disarmament.

In reviewing these problems, we asked ourselves one simple question: which United Nations operations have successfully carried out disarmament or demobilization? The failures are of course, well known. Somalia is the best example, although there the United Nations has been unfairly blamed for serious errors in judgement by a major Power acting independently of United Nations control. Cambodia has rightfully been hailed as a peacekeeping success story. In an article entitled "The Nightmare is Over", which appeared in the *New York Times* on 12 October 1993, William Shawcross wrote: "Let there be no doubt about it. Success is the right word" to describe the United Nations operation in Cambodia.

And indeed, a recent conference on peacekeeping in Singapore made the following observations:

> "From the start, UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] was conceived as a comprehensive and ambitious operation, with a good mix of both peacekeeping and peace-building elements, including human rights, the return and rehabilitation of refugees, civil administration, civilian police and electoral assistance."

However, the same conference in Singapore also observed that

> "UNTAC was, however, not a complete success. Ceasefire was not fully realized."

And these are the crucial words:

> "Disarmament and demobilization of soldiers did not take place. This was a major reason why the ability to implement the other aspects of the mandate was eroded."

Clearly, even in relatively successful peacekeeping operations, DDR can be a problematic element.

Indeed, if one reads the report of the Secretary-General carefully, the only clear example of success that is frequently mentioned is Mozambique, although in some aspects this, too, was seen or described as a qualified success. There may be other success stories, but we must confess that we did not find them in the report. What we did find in the report, however, was sound commonsensical advice on the key factors that could lead to success in disarmament and demobilization. These included the political will of parties to the conflict to abide by the peace agreement; full cooperation of the whole affected population, including both combatants and non-combatants; a clear and robust mandate for DDR in the peacekeeping operation; strong political support from the Security Council and the international community; the swift provision of ample resources for DDR; and the swift deployment and considerable deterrent capacity of the peacekeeping operation.

There is one particular paragraph of the Secretary-General's report is worth reading in full:

> "The ability of an operation to reassure demobilizing combatants of their security may require considerable deterrent capacity; this should be available as swiftly as possible with deployment of an operation. If an operation arrives in the field without the necessary capacity, this not only hobbles its practical effectiveness, but undermines its political viability. Credibility becomes a wasting asset unless support is forthcoming to sustain it, and where an operation is called upon to discharge a robust role in ensuring security, it is particularly important that well-equipped elements be deployed quickly. A mission that has been perceived as strong from the beginning of its deployment is far less likely to be tested than one which is perceived as initially vulnerable or ineffective." *(S/2000/101, para. 67)*

Therefore, the Secretary-General's report essentially indicates that a long list of factors are required for a successful DDR process. The logical conclusion that emerges from the report is that the success of DDR

depends on the overall conceptual soundness and viability of the peacekeeping operation that is launched. DDR on its own cannot be the crucial variable to determine a peacekeeping operation's success. A conceptually unsound peacekeeping operation cannot be rescued by good DDR, but a conceptually sound peacekeeping operation can be assisted by DDR.

A simple analogy may help explain this point. Each time the Council launches a new peacekeeping operation, we should compare it to the launch of a new sailing boat. Preferably, of course, it should be launched in propitious or favourable weather, but we are sure that the Council is aware of this. Whether the boat sinks or sails after the launch will depend on the conceptual and practical soundness of its construction. Poorly designed boats are more likely to sink. They are handicapped even before they are launched.

The elements of DDR serve as three additional sails on such a boat. On a well-designed boat, with favourable winds, they can help. On a poorly designed boat, even the best sails will make no difference. Hence, one key point that we hope to put across today is that each time we discuss DDR, we should do so in a holistic manner: look at the total picture of the boat and not just the sails.

We make this point here because the record of the Security Council in launching peacekeeping operations has been a little mixed. Many successful operations have been launched. The success stories are well known and lauded, but there have also been failures. This is normal. The Security Council is a human institution. Like all human creations, it has also erred, but, unlike other human institutions, it does not freely or frankly discuss its failures.

Take the two most recent peacekeeping operations that have been launched: in Kosovo and East Timor. The operation launched in Kosovo clearly appears to be conceptually unsound. The reasons are obvious. No explanation is needed. The daily reports we read of the trials and travails of United Nations and other peacekeepers in Kosovo confirm that all is not well. The current phase of the East Timor operations, by contrast, appears to be a conceptually sound operation, even though we have to concede that the initial phase under the United Nations Mission in East Timor had flaws. We hope that the rest of the East Timor operation will continue to do well.

Our role here is not to be negative. We are acutely aware, as are most in this Chamber, that most peacekeeping operations are not launched under perfect circumstances. Given the nature of the problems that they have to deal with, they are inevitably launched in messy and often difficult situations. But these obvious difficulties make it even more imperative for the Council to identify the critical factors that will create success stories rather than failures out of new peacekeeping operations.

Peacekeeping operations, as we indeed noted in our previous statement to the Council, are once again becoming a growth industry. The number of peacekeepers reached a high of about 80,000 in 1994, but then declined to around 10,000 in 1998-99. The number is now on the verge of going up significantly again. In the mid-1990s, we went through one wave of disillusionment that led to a sharp cutback in peacekeeping operations. How do we prevent another wave of disillusionment? This is the underlying concern that explains the remarks we are making to the Council today.

Hence, we applaud the greater attention that the Council is paying to many key dimensions of peacekeeping operations, including DDR. We also value the attention that the Council is paying to the demobilization of child soldiers in this context. In this regard, we welcome the progress made in child protection and note that senior child protection advisers have been included in two recent peacekeeping operations in Africa to help ensure that protection of children's rights remains a priority throughout. We hope that the Secretariat and other key United Nations agencies, like the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund, will provide greater support to the office of Under-Secretary-General Olara Otunnu, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

We believe that all this attention needs to be woven into a holistic approach that the Council should take towards new peacekeeping operations. Political realities often dictate both the location and nature of the new peacekeeping operations that are created. But these political realities have to be balanced with a careful, professional evaluation of the soundness of the operations that are to be launched. Most of us would be alarmed if sailing boats were built and launched without professional advice having been heeded. We should be equally alarmed if new peacekeeping operations are launched in a similar manner.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Colombia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Valdivieso (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me to participate in this debate. At the same time, I should like to acknowledge the report of the Secretary-General and to thank him for it, as well as for the introductory comments that he made this morning.

I should like to begin by highlighting the important role of the Security Council in the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) through its peacekeeping operations. It is clear from the statements made during this debate that there are two essential prerequisites for such a process to be successful in a peace-building environment. On the one hand, the conditions for the DDR process must be set out in the peace agreements signed by the parties to a conflict, while, on the other, the financial means required for the implementation of the process must be assured. These two prerequisites are essential for any DDR process, but they are not sufficient to ensure its success. It is worthwhile to point out, however, that there have been some successful cases of DDR in which neither the Security Council nor any peacekeeping operation has been involved.

In his report, the Secretary-General clearly presents the experience of peacekeeping operations in the processes of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. We share in particular his suggestions about the need for the United Nations to have at its disposal sufficient information about experts who could provide assistance to the Organization when the United Nations is called upon to participate in DDR activities. Furthermore, we consider his comments about the need to provide training to participants in peacekeeping missions on practical aspects of the DDR process to be relevant. However, we should like to make our own assessment with regard to the involvement of the United Nations in this area.

The signing of a peace agreement putting an end to an armed conflict should be seen as an achievement deserving the broadest support of the international community. However, the stage of managing peace is much more difficult and tends to take place without much fanfare and without making great headlines in the press. Hence, there is a risk of losing the initial international support that was generated for peace. When this happens and the support of the international community falls off, or when the international community is slow to react to a post-conflict situation, the risk of a return to conflict increases.

We therefore recognize the importance of giving the United Nations effective tools to enable it to provide continuous and uninterrupted support for post-conflict disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities. Peacekeeping missions are important instruments for that purpose, but we must not lose sight of the real causes of conflict, which may be many and may require a long-term response.

One area of great concern for Colombia is the wide availability of weapons in conflict zones and the illegal traffic in weapons. We believe that the international community has now become aware of the need to exercise stricter control over the trade in small arms. The upcoming Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons will provide a great opportunity for us to respond to this factor, which destabilizes peace.

The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process requires great trust to be established between the parties. Post-conflict reintegration, in particular, can call for economic rehabilitation or the establishment of new governmental institutions, which might exceed the limits of a peacekeeping operation. In such cases, we need to turn to the modalities of cooperation for development of other United Nations bodies, and we must respect their mandates.

In this context, we wish to highlight the work carried out by other bodies of the United Nations system in the process of reintegration, and we welcome the ever-growing participation of the World Bank. This is a stage that requires considerable investment to generate permanent sources of employment, rebuild the social fabric and establish new institutions. The broad participation of various international actors is therefore required at this peace-building stage. The calamities caused by war have worsened the living conditions of millions of people throughout the world. Let us ensure that indifference or an improvisational approach on the part of the international community to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes does not reverse progress on the road to peace.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Guatemala. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): Guatemala could not fail to take part in this debate in the Security Council on the role of the United Nations in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Ours is one of the countries that is fortunate enough to be a success story in this regard, a success that unfolded under the auspices of the United Nations.

We are grateful for the lucid report introduced by the Secretary-General. We believe that it highlights some of the issues that have been part of our own experience since December 1996, when an internal conflict that had lasted for almost 40 year was brought to an end. In the case of Guatemala, the three elements that form the subject of today's debate — disarmament, demobilization and reintegration — have received distinct, but interrelated treatment, in my country's Peace Accords. I am happy to report today on considerable progress in all three areas: total compliance in disarmament and demobilization and significant progress with regard to reintegration.

Since I am one of the last speakers, I can add little of a conceptual nature to what has already been said. I can, however, contribute concrete, real-life experiences. In that respect, there are two aspects to which I would draw attention.

The first concerns the way in which domestic actors interact with the international community, and the second the link between peace-building operations and humanitarian assistance on the one hand, and development on the other.

Let me turn to the first aspect. The international presence, in particular that of the United Nations, was noteworthy both during the negotiation of the Peace Accords and during their implementation. But at no time did that international presence replace the domestic actors as a determining force. Indeed, we believe that one of the lessons of the Guatemala peace process relates to the key importance of the domestic actors being in the proverbial driver's seat. When I speak of domestic actors, I am not referring only to the Government and the ex-insurgents but to civil society as a whole, since the peace process in Guatemala has been quite participatory. The fact that the international presence was not perceived to be excessively intrusive is due to a large degree to the respect that the United Nations engenders thanks to its impartiality and neutrality. In fact, it was the United Nations that coordinated, at least partially, the presence of other international actors — the so-called Group of Friends of the Guatemalan Peace Process — in the areas of the consolidation of peace and of external cooperation.

That brings me to my second point. Activities to consolidate peace in Guatemala are intimately connected to the development effort. Indeed, the bulk of the specific commitments contained in the Peace Accords involves economic and social development. The United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala monitors development and humanitarian aspects, and it maintains very close ties with the United Nations Development Programme and the rest of the United Nations system. All parties understand that for demobilization and reintegration to be successful, the economic environment must be favourable.

Finally, many of the issues raised in the Secretary-General's report have found concrete expression in Guatemala's experience, be it in the area of addressing the needs of children who are victims of conflict, in the area of disarmament or in that of promoting respect for human rights. The activities of the Organization in the field are providing many lessons that can facilitate our collective actions in other parts of the world, in compliance with the overarching objectives of the Charter of the United Nations. For this reason, my country is truly grateful to the United Nations.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Indonesia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Wibisono (Indonesia): Sir, my delegation wishes to extend its congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of March. We have full confidence that under your wise guidance, progress will be made in dealing with the issues on its agenda. Let me also extend felicitations to your predecessor, Ambassador Arnoldo Listre of Argentina, for his skilful stewardship of the Council's activities last month.

Indonesia wishes to commend the delegation of Bangladesh for its initiative to have the Council consider the agenda item before us. We believe that it is both timely and appropriate and that it will be beneficial not only to the international community but also to the countries directly concerned.

The report of the Secretary-General has rightly focused our attention on the complexities of the interrelated issues involved and on the role of peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and

reintegration. The report also makes clear the crucial role of international assistance in ensuring the effective implementation of the agreements reached and the marshalling of resources needed to advance the peace process.

The international dimension of these activities should focus on the role of the United Nations and of regional organizations in their respective spheres of competence. Their involvement within a framework for cooperation will have a salutary impact by bringing a measure of stability, which, as experience has shown, has led in some instances to the restoration of normalcy in troubled areas. But first and foremost, the success of these endeavours depends ultimately on the willingness of the parties involved to abide by the terms of the peace agreements and to give up the use of force, which is a *sine qua non* for launching the three-pronged approach of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

Moreover, the handing over of weapons to competent authorities and the ensuing demobilization have positive implications for security in post-conflict situations, especially in ensuring and promoting the peace process. We recognize the importance of creating an atmosphere conducive to security by disarming the combatants and collecting armaments from civilians within the framework of an overall weapon-collection programme, so as to promote an environment in which weapons are no longer perceived to be necessary.

It is poignant to note that 300,000 children under the age of 18 have been used as soldiers in conflicts around the world. It is alarming to note that such activities are on the increase, which calls attention to the need for their demobilization and reintegration into society. Their future is in jeopardy due to limited educational opportunities, which alone can prepare them for productive careers. It is self-evident that more needs to be done to ensure them a rightful place in society through adequate support programmes.

Special attention should be paid to child soldiers in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities. Bearing in mind the vulnerability of children, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers should be pursued in a specific manner. As conflicts are resolved, their rights, as stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, should immediately be restored, protected and promoted. Their reintegration into their family and society is crucial. First priority should be given to school education for them.

Another important issue is curbing the flow of arms across national borders through clandestine means after disarmament is achieved, as it would have a profoundly negative impact on security and portend a potentially explosive situation. Determined and coordinated efforts at the national, regional and international levels can stem the cross-border flow of weapons.

Finally, the question of adequate financing needs to be addressed to ensure the implementation of programmes for the reintegration and reconstruction of a damaged economy. This calls for the distribution of financial assistance on a fair and equitable basis between the ex-combatants and the civilian population, many of whom also face extreme economic hardship.

The complexity and multidimensional nature of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants call for political will, which is of the utmost importance in bolstering the role of the United Nations through the modality of peacekeeping. We believe that, based on the Organization's experience in various conflicts, it is time to approach these issues on the basis of guidelines to be drawn from the Secretary-General's report.

The President: I thank the representative of Indonesia for his kind words addressed to me and my country.

The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Egypt. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Aboul Gheit (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): The delegation of Egypt has read the report of the Secretary-General on the role of peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, contained in document S/2000/101, which was submitted at the request of the Council pursuant to the presidential statement of 8 July 1999 on this subject. We would like to extend our thanks to the Secretary-General for preparing the report and to offer some observations on the handling of this question in the Security Council.

First, the delegation of Egypt takes note of the enhanced mandates given to peacekeeping operations by the Council in the area of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants. In this respect, we would like to state that any mandate of this kind should be carried out with the full cooperation and agreement of the parties to the conflict, as their

agreement is the sole basis on which the implementation of these activities can begin. Such agreement is an indication of the necessary political will to proceed with the implementation of these activities. We cannot impose the implementation of these activities without the agreement of the parties concerned.

Secondly, my delegation believes that in cases where the Security Council gives special mandates to peacekeeping operations to carry out these activities, it should ensure the adequacy of the resources provided to the Members of the United Nations and their forces who are asked to implement the mandate and supervise such activities. This is particularly necessary with regard to the disarmament and demobilization component if we are to avoid any dangerous problems that may arise from a lack or insufficiency of resources. In this connection, I cannot fail to mention the reference in paragraph 64 of the Secretary-General's report to the failure to demobilize combatants in Angola during the United Nations Angola Verification Missions because of the inadequacy of human and material resources at the time.

Thirdly, we recognize the danger by small arms, which are widely used in internal conflicts and civil wars. We are also aware that the Security Council sometimes faces cases in which it must tackle the spread of these weapons in conflict zones. However, we believe that this question should primarily be dealt with in the relevant forums, particularly the General Assembly. Addressing the issue of small arms in the Security Council should therefore be limited to the operational aspects related to the disarmament of combatants within the framework of peacekeeping operations; it should not extend into other aspects arising from central and conceptual aspects of the problem of small arms.

Along these lines, I would also like to point out that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants are long-term programmes that are part of a continuum, as the Secretary-General's report indicates. Many United Nations bodies and agencies working in the post-conflict peace-building process also deal with these matters, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The peace-building process should be tackled comprehensively, given the interrelated nature of its elements. In this regard, I must refer to the importance of coordination between all United Nations bodies and agencies working in this field in avoiding any conflict where negative results might affect the successful implementation of a mission's mandate.

Fourthly, it is important to pay tribute to the important role played by some non-governmental organizations in carrying out the demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants in some States. Egypt welcomes that role as long as those organizations abide by the basic conditions of their work in this sensitive area, seeking the agreement of the Government concerned and respecting its national rules and regulations.

I would now like to move from general points to two more specific examples: the cases of Congo and Sierra Leone. I would like to point out that the problem of armed groups in eastern Congo that are not parties to the Lusaka Agreement represents a great source of destabilization in the Congo and neighbouring countries. They add a dangerous dimension to the already complicated, difficult and multifaceted conflict in that country. The international community cannot support the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement without reaching a permanent solution to the problem of these armed groups. The United Nations cannot establish and deploy an entire peacekeeping operation without drawing up and implementing a general and comprehensive programme to disarm, demobilize and reintegrate these groups into civilian life.

It is our hope that the Joint Military Commission will be able to set up a plan in cooperation and coordination with the United Nations to proceed with the implementation of this part of the Ceasefire Agreement in the near future, so as to help pave the way for the other military aspects of the Lusaka Agreement. Agreeing on an ambitious plan to disarm, demobilize and reintegrate the so-called negative forces in eastern Congo will not contribute in itself to solving the dangerous problem posed by those armed groups. What is required is the coordination of the efforts of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the Joint Military Commission and the parties to the conflict themselves to ensure the successful implementation of such a plan after its drafting and ratification. Undoubtedly, the World Bank can play a pivotal role in preparing and implementing such a programme in cooperation with the United Nations and other parties concerned. This will, of course, require vast financial resources, which we hope the donor countries will provide.

Finally, we would like to say that the peacekeeping operation in Sierra Leone, which will be the largest peacekeeping operation in the world once it is fully deployed, is a clear example of the pivotal role that the

international Organization could carry out in the field of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants, particularly child soldiers. The successful implementation of this programme in Sierra Leone will undoubtedly contribute to a great extent to laying the security, political, economic and social basis that is necessary to achieving peace and stability in that country, which has suffered the scourge of civil war since 1991. While we call upon all parties to participate in the disarmament and demobilization of combatants and upon the leaders of the Revolutionary United Front and the former military regime to cooperate fully with the efforts of the United Nations and the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sierra Leone in this respect, we hope that the donor countries will start providing the financial resources necessary to implement this programme, particularly through their contribution to the Trust Fund established by the World Bank for that purpose. We hope that the international conference to be held in London on 27 March will lead to positive results in this respect.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list.

In accordance with the agreement reached, the next meeting of the Security Council to continue the consideration of this item on the agenda will take place immediately following the adjournment of this meeting.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4119

Security Council
Fifty-fifth Year

Provisional

4119th Meeting
Thursday, 23 March 2000, 4.45 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Chowdhury	(Bangladesh)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Cappagli
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Brunet
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Keita
	Namibia	Mr. Kaxuxwena
	Netherlands	Mr. Scheffers
	Russian Federation	Mr. Sergeev
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Krokhmal
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Grainger
	United States of America	Mr. Metruck

Agenda

Maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peace-building

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (S/2000/101)

00-35727 (E)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 4.45 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peace-building

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (S/2000/101)

The President: The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls the statement of its President of 8 July 1999 (S/PRST/1999/21) and welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of 11 February 2000 (S/2000/101). The Council recalls its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States in conducting all peacekeeping and peace-building activities and the need for States to comply with their obligations under international law.

"The Security Council has considered the matter of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants in a peacekeeping environment as part of its overall and continuing effort to contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping and peace-building activities in conflict situations around the world.

"The Security Council underlines that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants are mutually supportive and that the success of the process is dependent on the success of each of its steps. The Council stresses that the political commitment of the parties involved in a peace process is a precondition for the success of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. The Council reaffirms that disarmament and demobilization must take place in a secure and safe environment, which will give ex-combatants the confidence to lay down their arms, and underlines the importance of international assistance for long-term economic and social development to facilitate successful reintegration. In this regard, the Council notes that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration must be addressed comprehensively so as to facilitate a smooth transition from peacekeeping to peace-building.

"The Security Council recognizes that the mandates of peacekeeping missions increasingly include oversight of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration as one of their functions. The Council further recognizes the importance of incorporating, as appropriate, within specific peace agreements, with the consent of the parties, and on a case-by-case basis within United Nations peacekeeping mandates, clear terms for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, including the safe and timely collection and disposal of arms and ammunition. The Council emphasizes that the international community's advocacy is essential in this regard. The Council also underlines the necessity of a clear definition of tasks and division of responsibilities among all actors involved in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, including United Nations agencies and programmes, and that this should be reflected, where relevant, in the mandates of peacekeeping operations.

"The Security Council recognizes that effective action to curb the illegal flow of arms and light weapons into areas of conflict can contribute to the success of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, and encourages further efforts and cooperation at the national, subregional, regional and global levels to this end.

"The Security Council underlines in particular the importance of disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating child soldiers, as well as taking into account the problems faced by war-affected children in mission areas. It is therefore imperative that child soldiers be fully included in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, and that programmes also be designed to address the special needs of all war-affected children, taking into account differences in sex and age, and their

differing experiences in the course of armed conflict, with particular attention to girls. In this regard, the Council requests the Secretary-General to consult relevant United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and other relevant organizations with expertise in the field with a view to the development of appropriate programmes, and underlines the importance of coordination in this regard.

"The Security Council welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General to include within all peacekeeping operations personnel with appropriate training in international, humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, including child- and gender-related provisions. In this regard, the Council welcomes the inclusion of a child protection adviser in some of the recent peacekeeping operations, and encourages the Secretary- General to include such personnel in future operations as appropriate. The Council stresses the importance of addressing, in particular, the needs of women ex-combatants, notes the role of women in conflict resolution and peace-building and requests the Secretary-General to take that into account.

"The Security Council recognizes that adequate and timely funding for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is critical to the successful implementation of a peace process, and calls for coordination of voluntary and assessed funding to that end, including among all elements of the United Nations system. The Council welcomes the increasing involvement of the World Bank in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes and stresses the importance of support of Member States for its activities in this area. The Council further encourages other international financial institutions to become involved.

"The Security Council stresses that training of peacekeepers in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants continues to be an important asset in the implementation of these activities in mission areas. In that regard, the Council notes that the review by the Secretary-General of lessons learned from disarmament, demobilization and reintegration experiences may assist Member States and others in their training efforts. The Council encourages the Secretary-General to explore avenues of cooperation with existing and new peacekeeping training centres in the implementation of such training programmes.

"The Security Council takes note that the ultimate success of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process may require efforts long after the withdrawal of multidisciplinary peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the post-conflict United Nations presence, including the deployment, as appropriate, of a follow-on mission, may help support the advances made and further make progress on the matter.

"The Security Council encourages the Secretary-General to continue to address this issue on a regular basis and to draw to its attention any new developments in this area.

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2000/10.

Before adjourning the meeting, let me, on behalf of the Council, convey our deep appreciation to the delegation of Malaysia for the initiative it took last year with regard to this item, and for the contribution it made with respect to the adoption of today's presidential statement.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.